

2013-2014



USC Aiken
Student Handbook



2013-2014

Foreword.....	3
A Message from the Chancellor.....	3
Student Consumer Information.....	4
Equal Opportunity in Programs and Activities...	5
Confidentiality of Student Records.....	6
A Brief History.....	7
Profile of USC Aiken.....	8
Mission Statement.....	8
Statement of Values.....	9
Description of Buildings.....	10
Campus Services.....	13
International Programs.....	22
Student Health Center.....	25
University Publications.....	26
Safety at USC Aiken.....	27
Student Judicial Process.....	28
Academic Code of Conduct.....	30
Consequences for Violations of Academic Integrity.....	31
Student Organization Non-Academic, Discipline System.....	47
Disciplinary Procedures for Non-Academic Violations.....	50
Administrative and University Judicial Board Hearings.....	51
Student Rights in a Formal Administrative or University Judicial Board Hearing.....	51

Student Rights in a Formal Administrative or University Judicial Board Hearing.....	51
Student Grievance Procedure.....	55
Policy on the use of Alcohol by Students.....	60
Policy on the use of Drugs by Students.....	62
Information and Resources: Alcohol and Other Drugs.....	64
Information on SC Alcoholic Beverage Laws.....	68
Information on SC Drug Laws.....	74
Racial Harassment Policy.....	74
Sexual Harassment Policy.....	74
Sexual Assault Policy.....	75
Hazing Policy.....	84
Acceptable Use of USC Aiken Computer and Network Resources.....	85
Student Email Policy.....	91
University Aids Policy.....	93
Immunization Policy.....	94
Meal Plan Policy.....	94
Parking and Traffic Safety Policies and Procedures.....	95
Parking and Traffic Regulations.....	95
University Housing Policies.....	97
Pet Policy.....	101
Smoking and Tobacco Policy.....	102

FOREWORD

This 2013-2014 Student Handbook has been prepared so that USC Aiken undergraduate and graduate students may have a better understanding of their institution and its rules and regulations. It contains material about what the student may rightfully expect from the University and what the University may rightfully expect from the student. No publication can anticipate and cover all situations that may arise, but most matters are covered, at least in principle, in the Handbook. Other relevant USC Aiken documents include the USC Aiken Bulletin and the USC Aiken Policy Manual. Each student is responsible for becoming thoroughly familiar with the Handbook's contents and it will be assumed that this responsibility has been met and that all students have been informed of policies and regulations. Interpretation of matters in the Handbook is the responsibility of the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services. The Chancellor of the University has final authority regarding interpretation.

USC Aiken is dedicated to equality of opportunity within its community. Accordingly, USC Aiken does not practice or condone discrimination in any form against students, employees or applicants on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, genetics, veteran status or disability. USC Aiken commits itself to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of these characteristics. USC Aiken supports the protection available to members of its community under all applicable federal laws. Complaints may be addressed to the Title IX Compliance Officer and Director of Human Resources, Maria Chandler, Penland 116, (803)641-3317, Marjac@usca.edu. This handbook is published by the Division of Student Life and Services at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Welcome to the University of South Carolina Aiken. Whether you are a first-time- in-college freshman, a transfer student, or a returning student, I am pleased that you have made USC Aiken your university of choice. We are committed to ensuring that your experience is challenging, rewarding, and gratifying.

Our primary aim is to provide an environment where meaningful self-expansion and a rich realization of your powers of intellect and thoughtful action can develop. Toward this end, we believe your commitment to engage fully in the life of the campus is critical. There is no substitute for meaningful interactions between students and faculty to facilitate the learning process, so take every opportunity available to meet with your faculty, engage in research, attend colloquia, and speak with your advisor about your educational goals and aspirations. These are highly educated and intelligent individuals who could be engaged in any number of professional pursuits...but, they have chosen to be here for you. As a student, my hope is that you will strive to

broaden your intellectual horizons and to build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills. At USC Aiken, you have unlimited educational opportunities to help you achieve this goal.

At USC Aiken, learning takes place both in and beyond the classroom. Learning occurs through a wide variety of experiences ranging from involvement in leadership and residence life programs, to participation in student clubs and organizations. Get physical by participating in intramural or club sports. Attend a concert, art opening, or play, and consider putting what you learn in class in conversation with service by volunteering your time and efforts through one of our service organizations. Consider studying abroad and sign up for a class in a subject completely outside your major (or comfort zone!). At this university there is a universe of possibilities at your fingertips.

Remember that along your academic journey, there are countless resources available to you, and which exist solely to help you make the most of your undergraduate experience. The Student Handbook is a handy resource, which will provide you with information about the many support services, organizations, and activities available to you. Additionally, the Student Handbook will outline most of the institution's policies, rules, and regulations.

The faculty and staff join me in welcoming you and wishing you a successful and fulfilling year. We are delighted that you are here at USC Aiken!

Best wishes,
Sandra J. Jordan, Ph.D.
Chancellor

STUDENT CONSUMER INFORMATION

The Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-542) and the Higher Education Technical Amendment of 1991 (P.L. 102-26), and the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-315) require that all institutions of higher education collect and make certain information available to students/prospective students and employees/prospective employers upon request. Title I of this act is known as the Student Right-to-Know Act and Title II is known as the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act. Information requirements are separated into three categories: graduation or completion rates, athletically-related financial aid, and campus security policies, crime statistics and campus housing fire safety. Graduation or completion rates are prepared and published by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and are readily available to current and prospective students upon request. Athletically-related aid reports are prepared for the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and the NCAA and are also available. The Annual Campus Security Policies, Crime Statistics, and Fire Safety Report are published by the USC Aiken University Police Department and are available to current and prospective students and employees.

The University of South Carolina Aiken is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur,

Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees.

The University of South Carolina Aiken provides affirmative action and adheres to the principle of equal educational and employment opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, sex, creed, national origin, age, genetics, disability or veteran status. This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by the University. The University of South Carolina has hereby designated as the Section 504 coordinator, the University Affirmative Action Officer located in the Human Services Division, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Any person who feels they qualify for special accommodations due to physical, learning or psychological disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (803) 641-6816 for a free, confidential interview.

If you need this handbook in an alternative format, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at (803) 641-6816.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Federal laws prohibit discrimination under programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. The statutes listed below are applicable to the University of South Carolina Aiken and provide in part:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

"No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

"No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Section 303 of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336 of 1990** provides anti-discrimination (civil rights) protection and access to equal employment

opportunities for persons with disabilities. Accessibility requirements are similar to those imposed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which addresses non-discrimination in employment and program services by recipients of any federal assistance. The ADA complements Section 504 and expands its coverage as well as changes some of the application and accommodation processes. USC Aiken is committed to the letter and the intent of both the ADA and Section 504.

The University of South Carolina Aiken conducts its programs and activities involving admission and treatment of students, employment, teaching, research, and public service in a non-discriminating manner as prescribed by federal law and regulation. Inquiries concerning the above may be sent to: Maria Chandler, Director of Human Resources, mariac@usca.edu, (803)641-3318.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

In accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, University of South Carolina Aiken students have the right to review, inspect, and challenge the accuracy of information kept in a cumulative file by the institution unless the student waives this right. It also insures that records cannot be released in other than emergency situations except*:

1. To other school officials, including faculty, within the educational agency who have legitimate educational interests;
2. To officials of other schools or school systems in which the student intends to enroll, upon condition that the student be notified of the transfer, receive a copy of the record desired, and have an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the record;
3. To authorized representatives of the Comptroller General of the United States, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and administrative head of an education agency, or state educational authorities;
4. In connection with a student's application for, and receipt of, financial aid;
5. To parents of an eligible student who claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes. Upon receipt of the parents' most recent federal income tax return listing the student as a dependent, the students' records will be given. The student will be notified in writing and certified mail that this access has been given.
6. Where the information is classified as "directory information." The following categories of information have been designated by the University as directory information: student's name, local and permanent mailing addresses and telephone numbers, email address, semesters of attendance, enrollment status (full- or part-time), date of admission, date of expected or actual graduation, school, major and minor fields of study, whether or not currently enrolled, classification (freshman, etc.), type of degree being pursued, degrees, honors, and awards received (including scholarships and fellowships), weight and height of members of athletic teams, and whether the student has participated in officially recognized activities and sports sponsored by the University.

If you do not wish such information released without your consent, you should notify the Registrar's Office prior to the first day of classes. Questions concerning this law and the University's policy concerning release of academic information may be directed to the Registrar's Office.

*In 1998, changes were made to the FERPA law. Higher education institutions are now permitted to inform parents about alcohol and drug violations. Please see the Alcohol and Drug Policies in this Handbook for further information.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Building partnerships has been the cornerstone of the University of South Carolina Aiken since its inception in 1961. It was then that the citizens of the Aiken community voiced the need for a local institution of higher education. In a true demonstration of grassroots politics, the community rallied to show their support for a college to be founded in the area. Through state legislation, a governing board was formed, the Aiken County Commission for Higher Education, which continues to oversee the University's mission.

The University of South Carolina, the state's flagship university which was founded in Columbia in 1801, began offering courses in Aiken for students interested in completing their degrees in Columbia. USC Aiken became the fourth campus founded of the eight that would eventually comprise the USC System. Three full-time faculty members, a secretary, and 139 students joined for the university's first academic semester in September 1961. Classes took place in "Banksia," a former winter-colony mansion in downtown Aiken. For 11 years, the university's first students attended college in a structure which was developed as living quarters, studying composition in an area which was once a ballroom and algebra in a former sitting room.

Over the years, the student population grew and the need for a new physical location for campus arose. The university purchased property from the Graniteville Company and moved from Banksia to its present site in 1972. One multipurpose building was constructed, which was later named the Robert E. Penland Administration Building. This building's open courtyard features one of the campus' most notable landmarks, the Double Knot sculpture by artist Charles Perry, which symbolizes the University's close ties with the local community. At the time, most assumed that this would be the only building ever needed for the campus; however, the university grew to occupy more than 20 buildings and athletics facilities in the years that followed.

As a natural next step, USC Aiken began to seek autonomy in the USC system so students could begin and complete their degrees in Aiken. In 1977, the university was fully accredited as a senior college by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and granted its first baccalaureate degrees. Master's degree programs began being offered on campus in 1994, and at present, the campus offers more than 46 degrees and academic programs to students.

The institution began forming a limited number of sports teams as part of the NAIA in the 1960s. USC Aiken student-athletes adopted the Pacers as their mascot, named for Aiken's well-known status as an equestrian community. In 1990, USC Aiken achieved NCAA Division II status and became a charter member of the highly-competitive Peach Belt Conference. Today, Pacer Athletics hosts 11 varsity men's and women's sports teams, including the three-time national champion men's golf team.

Since 1961, five leaders have navigated the University's path. Mr. Chris Sharp (1961- 1962), Mr. Bill Casper (1963-1983), Dr. Robert Alexander (1983-2000), Dr. Thomas Hallman (2000-2012) have overseen the campus as it has grown from a commuter institution to a more traditional, residentially-based campus. Dr. Sandra Jordan joined USC Aiken as the new Chancellor on July 1, 2012, bringing with her many innovative ideas and a great deal of enthusiasm about the University's future.

Today, USC Aiken ranks as the #1 public baccalaureate college in the South by U.S. News & World Report's guide "America's Best Colleges." More than 3,200 students attend the university, and approximately 500 students graduate each year. USC Aiken embodies its "focused on you" commitment by providing many of the offerings of a large university on a small, friendly campus with intimate class sizes and personal attention. The commitment to continuing partnerships is woven into the fabric of the campus' culture.

PROFILE OF USC AIKEN

MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1961, the University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken) is a comprehensive liberal arts institution committed to active learning through excellence in teaching, faculty and student scholarship, research, creative activities, and service. In this stimulating academic community, USC Aiken challenges students to acquire and develop the skills, knowledge, and values necessary for success in a dynamic global environment.

The University offers degrees in the arts and sciences and in the professional disciplines of business, education, and nursing. All courses of study are grounded in a liberal arts and sciences core curriculum. USC Aiken also encourages interdisciplinary studies and collaborative endeavors.

Emphasizing small classes and individual attention, USC Aiken provides students with opportunities to maximize individual achievement in both academic and co-curricular settings. The institution challenges students to think critically and creatively, to communicate effectively, to learn independently, and to acquire depth of knowledge in chosen fields. The university values honesty, integrity, initiative, hard work, accomplishments, responsible citizenship, respect for diversity, and cross-cultural understanding.

USC Aiken attracts students of varying ages and diverse cultural backgrounds who have demonstrated the potential to succeed in a challenging academic

environment. In addition to serving the Savannah River area, USC Aiken actively seeks student enrollment from all parts of South Carolina as well as from other states and countries.

As a senior, public institution of the University of South Carolina, USC Aiken combines the advantages of a smaller institution with the resources of a major university system. Located in beautiful, historic Aiken, South Carolina, USC Aiken is an institution of moderate size that offers baccalaureate degrees in a number of disciplines, completion baccalaureate degrees at University of South Carolina regional campuses, and master's degrees in selected programs.

USC Aiken endeavors to apply knowledge, skills and wisdom in ways that promote the common good. Accordingly, the university seeks to build strong community ties. The institution enriches the quality of life not only on campus but also throughout the surrounding region through a variety of activities including the fine and performing arts, athletics, continuing education, distance learning, and community service. In fulfilling its role as an institution of higher learning, the University of South Carolina Aiken is a community of individuals engaged in broadly based educational experiences necessary for an enlightened society.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

We at USC Aiken embrace the following values:

A High Quality Learning Environment

- We seek to impart a broad range of skills, knowledge, and wisdom
- We aim to maximize each student's potential
- We expect and value high quality teaching and individualized attention from faculty and staff
- We expect and value high quality scholarship and creative endeavors by faculty

We encourage:

- Critical thinking
- Independent learning
- An understanding of the connections between the liberal arts and discipline specific courses
- Curiosity and a love of continual learning
- Collegiality
- A nurturing community where people support one another in their efforts to learn and excel.
- Cooperation, collaboration and collegiality.
- Character
- Citizenship

We expect integrity, honesty and taking responsibility for our actions.

We embrace diversity and encourage respectfulness.

We encourage initiative, effort, and pride in hard work and accomplishments.

We strive to foster in students an understanding of the rights and responsibilities associated with membership in a community.

We seek to develop responsible citizenship and working for the common good.

We advocate involvement and partnerships with our external constituents to promote meaningful engagement and applied learning.

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS

ROBERT E. PENLAND ADMINISTRATION/CLASSROOM BUILDING

The Robert E. Penland Administration/Classroom Building was the first structure to be erected at USC Aiken and has a large open-air courtyard and garden in its center. At one time, the entire University was housed in this facility. The building is named for a longtime supporter of USC Aiken and former chair of the Aiken County Commission for Higher Education, Mr. Robert E. Penland.

This building houses the Enrollment Services Office, Business Services Office, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid Office, Computer Services, Career Services, Academic Success Center, Human Resources, and the Math Lab. Classrooms for math, computer science, and psychology are held in this building.

ALAN B. MILLER NURSING BUILDING

The Alan B. Miller Nursing Building houses classrooms, labs, and faculty offices for the nursing program. The building is named for Mr. Alan B. Miller, chair of Universal Health Services and a major donor to the School of Nursing.

BUSINESS AND EDUCATION BUILDING (B&E)

This building houses the Schools of Business Administration, along with a modern learning laboratory, a Wellness Center, the O'Connell Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology, the Small Business Development Center, the Counseling Center, Disability Services, the Assistive Technology Center, and the Office of Conferences and Continuing Education. Also included in the facility are classrooms, lecture halls, and computer classrooms and laboratories.

CHILDREN'S CENTER

The USC Aiken Children's Center offers child care for faculty, staff, students and the community. It is licensed by the State of South Carolina and employs qualified teachers and students of the University. It is also accredited by the national association for the education of young children (NAEYC).

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING (HSS)

Classes in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are held in this building. The Language Lab, the Writing Room, and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness are located in this building. The Station, one of USC Aiken's food service

operations, is also located in the H&SS building.

ETHERREDGE CENTER

The Etherredge Center is the University's visual and performing arts facility. The building contains classrooms and offices for the academic department of Visual and Performing Arts, the O'Connell Experimental Theatre, and a larger 687-seat main stage theatre. The facility is dedicated to presenting top quality programs for the campus and the community, including the USC Aiken Cultural Series, the USC Aiken Concert Choir, University Theatre, the Playground Playhouse, the USC Aiken Athletic Band, and the USC Aiken Concert Band. The Etherredge Center hosts outside presentations as well.

GREGG-GRANITEVILLE LIBRARY

The faculty, support staff, and collections of the Gregg-Graniteville Library comprise an integral part of USC Aiken's instructional program. The building houses an extensive book, periodical, and microform collection. The USC Aiken Library also serves as an official depository for federal and state documents. The Library is fully automated and allows access information in a variety of formats using state- of-the- art equipment. The library is also home to the USC Aiken Veteran Student Success Center.

PACER COMMONS

Pacer Commons features two and four bedroom apartments which open up onto interior hallways. Meeting rooms, lounges, a game room, multipurpose rooms, a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, a picnic pavilion, and a computer lab are located at or in Pacer Commons.

PACER CROSSINGS

Pacer Crossings is a residence hall designed especially for freshmen. It features suites which open up onto a common living space. Meeting rooms, lounges, multipurpose rooms, and a computer lab are located at or in Pacer Crossing.

PACER DOWNS

Pacer Downs is an on-campus facility that houses students in two-bedroom/two-bath, garden-style apartments. A meeting room, computer lab, pool, convenience store, sand volleyball courts, basketball court, picnic pavilions, and a covered patio are a part of the Pacer Downs location.

PICKENS-SALLEY HOUSE

Called "the last and perhaps the greatest" house of the Federal period built in South Carolina, the Pickens-Salley House was originally constructed in 1829 at Edgefield by Francis W. Pickens, minister to Russia and Secessionist governor of South Carolina. "Edgewood," as the Pickens family called the house, was exactly 100 years old when it was acquired in 1929 by Mr. & Mrs. Julian B. Salley and moved to Aiken, where it was reconstructed board-by-board but with a number of alterations and improvements. Mrs. Salley - "Eulalie" - lived at the Pickens House until her death in 1975. A lady of great charm and talent, she cherished the Pickens

House - which is on the National Register of Historic Places - and entertained there many persons of prominence in our state and nation. The Pickens-Salley house is situated on a site which makes it useful for campus and community activities and simultaneously preserves its historical integrity. It houses the Chancellor's Office and the University Advancement Office.

RUTH PATRICK SCIENCE EDUCATION CENTER

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center is a cooperative community effort involving USC Aiken, local school districts, and the private sector. The Center was established to provide a permanent program to enhance science and math education within the schools of the Central Savannah River Area. The Center offers educational institutes, courses, and workshops for K-12 teachers that are designed both to increase basic knowledge of math and science as well as to enhance teaching skills. Programs are also offered for K-12 students to encourage their interest in math and science. The Center emphasizes innovative, hands-on approaches to learning. The Center draws upon the expertise of professional educators, engineers and scientists from colleges, industries and schools throughout the Central Savannah River Area to provide its services. The DuPont Planetarium features a Digistar II Projection system and provides public showings.

SCIENCES BUILDING

The Sciences Building houses state-of-the-art laboratory and classroom facilities. With more than 56,000 square feet of space and laboratories equipped with modern scientific instrumentation, faculty and students actively pursue scientific research and instruction. The building also serves as a model of energy efficiency through its design and unique combination of energy-conserving mechanical systems. The Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is located in this building.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

The Student Activities Center provides students with a place to meet, relax with friends, and participate in activities and events. It is the focal point of activity for student services and organizations.

Services and facilities available include several conference rooms, TV lounge area, Intramurals gym, the Pacer Cafe, a game room, bookstore, natatorium, ATM, vending machines, copy machine, and student organization mailboxes. Many areas of the Student Activities Center are available for use by campus organizations, faculty, and staff.

Offices located in the Center to serve student needs are the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services, Student Life, Student Health Center, International Programs, Student Government, Minority Achievement Program (MAP), Pacer Union Board, and Student Media (Pacer Times Newspaper and Broken Ink literary magazine).

The Student Activities Center is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.; and

Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. (fall and spring semesters, excluding holidays). General information about activities and events, as well as information about clubs and organizations are available from the Student Activities Center.

ROBERTO HERNANDEZ BASEBALL STADIUM

The Roberto Hernandez Baseball Stadium is a 1,000 seat, state-of-the-art stadium featuring a beautiful grass surface with all the amenities of a top-notch Division I ball park. Among the highlights are a clubhouse, player's lounge, coach's offices, modern press box and radio broadcast booth, training facilities, and 850 covered seats. The facility is named for former Pacer athlete Roberto Hernandez, a two-time Major League Baseball All-Star. The stadium also features the Roberto Hernandez Hall of Fame Room.

CONVOCATION CENTER

The 100,000 square-foot building has a seating capacity for 4,000. In addition to being the home for Pacer Athletics, the Convocation Center is designed to be a venue for entertainment and community events. The building includes three playing surfaces, dressing rooms, athletic training facilities, and meeting space. The facility is managed by Global Spectrum, who is responsible for bringing a wide range of entertainment options into the facility.

CAMPUS SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The Academic Success Center encourages the academic success of USC Aiken students by assisting them in developing educational plans, connecting them to campus resources, and promoting engaged learning and personal responsibility. Below are descriptions of some of the services in the department. More detailed information about these services, a full list of the free programs in the department, and other academic resources can be accessed at <http://web.usca.edu/asc/>.

Academic Advisement

The Academic Success Center helps connect USC Aiken students to their assigned advisor. Students are required to be advised prior to each registration period. While the advisor assists students in pursuing educational goals, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to ensure they are making progress toward degree completion.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available in a number of content areas and courses. All USC Aiken tutors are identified through faculty references, and tutoring is free for enrolled USC Aiken students. To access a list of tutors available for the current semester, visit the Academic Success Center website. Additionally, if students need assistance in a course that is not included in the list, they can complete a "Tutor Request" form on the website.

Academic Consultations

The Academic Success Center offers academic consultations designed to assist students at any level. Students work one-on-one with professional staff members to improve time management, study skills, organizational skills and other academic skills. Students can schedule an appointment using the “Appointment Request” form on the website. Visit the Academic Success Center in Penland, Room 108 for more information.

Math Lab

The mission of the Math Lab is to provide support for students enrolled in mathematics courses at USC Aiken, and ultimately enable students to be successful in classes that use mathematics. This is accomplished by providing students with free peer tutoring in any freshman level and selected sophomore level mathematics classes. The Math Lab is located in Penland, Room 221.

Writing Room

The mission of the Writing Room is to provide an open teaching and learning environment for the collaborative discussion of writing so that students may become more aware and independent writers. Writing consultants come from a range of disciplines and are formally trained to provide feedback during all phases of the writing process. The Writing Room is located in H&SS, Room 112.

Admissions Office

The Admissions counselors and staff offer assistance to students desiring information about the academic programs of the University. For information concerning admissions requirements and application procedures, stop by the Admissions Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday) or call to schedule an evening appointment.

Alumni Association

The mission of the USC Aiken Alumni Association is to serve, inform, and involve the alumni in the educational process of USC Aiken while supporting the interests of USC Aiken. The USC Aiken Alumni Association encourages interaction and fellowship among alumni, students, faculty, staff and the community through ongoing social, educational, and professional programs and events. Events are held on and off campus to help alumni maintain a lifelong connection with their alma mater. The Association sponsors fundraising activities each year to benefit undergraduate scholarship funds. In addition, the Association supports an endowment that provides scholarships to children of USC Aiken graduates.

ATM

An ATM is located in the Student Activities Center near the Pacer Shoppe (Bookstore) for your convenience.

Bookstore

The Pacer Shoppe is the source for all course materials including textbooks, lab supplies, course packets, school supplies, and study aids. The bookstore is located in the Student Activities Center, (SAC) near the Food Court. Operated by the University

of South Carolina Aiken, the primary mission of the bookstore is to provide educational materials to students at the lowest cost possible.

Money Saving Tips for Purchasing Course Materials:

- Purchase used books when possible; used textbooks are typically 25% less expensive than new textbooks -- and help conserve our environment.
- Purchase your books as early as possible – when more used books are available.
- Purchase only the required materials before class; if a textbook is listed as optional or recommended, wait until after classes begin, you may not need this book.
- Sell your unwanted textbooks at the end of each semester; The Pacer Shoppe will pay 50% of the purchase price for books that have been re-adopted for the next semester, are in the current edition, and are not overstocked at the bookstore; all other books may be purchased by a national used book dealer.

Making Your Textbook Shopping A Little Easier:

- Bring your class schedule or course syllabus with you to the bookstore to make certain you're getting books for the correct course number and section number.
- Avoid the crowd by shopping the bookstore during its less busy hours. The hours of 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. are the busiest during the first week of classes.

Buyback policy:

Textbooks can be sold back the last week of each semester. You may receive up to 50% of the new price and 50% of the used price if your book meets the following criteria:

- The textbook has been requested by the instructor for the upcoming semester.
- The book is in sellable condition.
- The book is needed by the Bookstore

PLEASE NOTE: A wholesaler conducts the buyback and may also buy books not being resold by the Pacer Shoppe.

Bookstore Hours (Subject to Change):

Fall & Spring Semesters:

Monday - Thursday 7:45 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Summer Sessions:

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday: Will coincide with the University's designated summer hours

The Pacer Shoppe offers extended hours at the start of each new academic session.

For more information, contact the Pacer Shoppe at 803-641- 3457 or bookstore@usca.edu. Book pricing and other information is also available through the website.

CAREER SERVICES

The mission of the Career Service Office is to assist all USC Aiken students and recent graduates with career-related concerns - choosing a career, choosing a college major, career planning, experiential learning and job search. Freshmen through graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of the services offered by the office; however, students' level of satisfaction with personal career goals will most likely have a direct relationship to how early they begin planning. Services offered to students include:

- Individual career counseling/advisement
- Career Information including the "What Can I Do With This Major?" webpage (http://www.USC_Aiken.edu/careers/majors/)
- Career Assessments (DISCOVER, Strong, MBTI)
- Job vacancy listings for off-campus summer, part-time, and full-time employment through Pacer Career Connections
- Experiential Education including assistance with job shadowing, informational interviews, internship and cooperative education positions
- Resume and cover letter review
- Job search and interview assistance
- Preparation for graduate and professional schools
- Career events and programs

The Career Services Office is also responsible for the posting of on-campus student employment positions and the campus-wide segment of student employment training.

The Career Services Office is located in the Penland Administration Building 107, (803-641-3440). Further information is at www.USC_Aiken.edu/careers.

CHILDREN'S CENTER

The USC Aiken Children's Center offers child care for children of faculty, staff, students, and the community. It is licensed by the State of South Carolina, is nationally accredited by the NAEYC, and employs qualified teachers as well as students of the University. The Center is open twelve months a year. Full-time care is available for children ages six weeks through five years. Parents have easy access to their children and are assured of the highest quality care.

COMPUTER SERVICES

The mission of the Computer Services Division (CSD) is to provide students, faculty, and staff with the computing, networking and voice communication tools necessary to support the academic and administrative goals of the University. The University of South Carolina Aiken and CSD are committed to providing a reliable, state-of-the-art campus computing environment.

USC Aiken's primary student computing resource lab is located in the Business and Education Building Suite 238. This area contains an open Windows and Macintosh computer lab, and dedicated Macintosh and Windows classrooms. During fall and spring semesters, CSD Help Desk personnel staff this area from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Friday. During the summer, assistance is available from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Students have access to these facilities and most computing resources 24 hours a day, 7 days-a-week.

All academic computing is supported in the Windows and Macintosh environments.

Network and wireless services are provided through USC Aiken's state-of-the-art Cisco network providing 100 megabit connections to the desktop, gigabit connectivity between buildings, access to the entire University of South Carolina network and the Internet. CSD manages several Windows servers providing the campus community with electronic mail, network printing, file sharing, and network applications. More information about CSD and the services it provides can be found at <http://www.USC Aiken.edu/helpdesk>.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Through the Office of Conferences and Continuing Education the University offers a selection of certificate and non-credit learning opportunities to include:

Online Learning - Ed2Go Classes – This program offers instructor facilitated online classes which you can complete from your home or office. These classes run for 6 weeks with a two week grace period at the end. Recently added- Equestrian Online, 26 continuing education courses for personal enrichment and professional development that can be taken at your leisure.

Kids In College Camps - Our just-for-fun and educational summer camps are geared to rising 2nd to 8th graders, and are held June - August.

Academy for Lifelong Learning – This program is geared to mature adults and provides an opportunity for seniors to explore many fascinating subjects, take day trips and meet other seniors with similar interests.

Senior Net – This program offers computer classes that are unique in that they have seniors teaching seniors. With a high instructor and coach to student ratio they are successful in creating confident computer users.

Conference Center – The USC Aiken Conference Center offers services and facilities to meet the needs of large or small groups. We serve both campus groups and community groups.

COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center is located in the Business & Education Building, Room 126.

Counseling is confidential and services are free. Counselors are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Evening services can be arranged by appointment. For after-hours or weekend emergencies, contact: University Police by dialing 6111 from on-campus telephones or 648-4011 from off-campus telephones; the Aiken County HELPLINE at 648-9900; Aiken Regional Medical Center Emergency Department at 641-5000; or Aurora Pavilion at 641-5900. A variety of different issues can be addressed at the Counseling Center, including, but not limited to:

- Time management
- Decision-making
- Communication skills
- Assertiveness training
- Building self-confidence
- Coping with depression and anxiety
- Relationship difficulties
- Drug and alcohol problems
- Conflict and anger management

In addition to the Center's trained counselors, an advocate from the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons is also available through the Counseling Center should there be issues of sexual assault or domestic violence. The Center shares expertise in the areas of human behavior and development through consultation and outreach services. The counselors are available to provide direct services to students, or consultation for faculty and staff, on a variety of emotional and/or academic concerns. Outreach efforts also include availability to make presentations on specific topics for classes, campus organizations and other groups at the University upon request.

DINING SERVICES

The university contracts with one of the country's premier food service operators to provide food services on campus and offers many dining options at USC Aiken, including:

- The **SAC Café** located in the Student Activities Center: A full service "all you care to eat" café featuring a fresh salad bar, made-to-order station, pizza, deli sandwiches, grilled entrees and comfort food station. (Operates for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
- The **Station** located in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building: Gourmet coffee, Fresh, build-to-order subs, and much more. (Operates for Breakfast and Lunch)
- The **Pacer Market** located at Pacer Downs: Snacks, supplies, and household essentials

USC Aiken has also partnered with Domino's pizza to accept Declining Balance dollars as form of payment. (Operates on Domino's Pizza hours)

All University housing residents are required to purchase a meal plan. Freshman students may choose from Meal Plans A or B. Sophomore students may choose from Meal Plans A, B, C or D. Junior and Senior students may choose from Meal Plans A,

B, C, D or E. USC Aiken housing residents will sign up for a meal plan when they complete their housing application. All other students should sign up during the registration process. To activate their meal plan, all students must present a valid USC Aiken I.D. and a receipt showing payment for the meal plan to the Dining Services Office located in the cafeteria in the Student Activities Center to activate their meal plan.

***Resident Meal Plan Options**

Meal Plans are an excellent way to ensure proper nutrition and budgeting.

Additionally, they offer the best dining value. There is a meal plan to suit the needs of every student and all students are encouraged to consider purchasing a meal plan.

- **Plan A: 19 Meal Plan - \$1,210.00 per semester.**

Provides 19 full, hot meals in the SAC Café each week. This plan also offers a bonus \$100 in declining balance money which may be used in any campus dining location.

- **Plan B: 15 Meal Plan - \$1,130.00 per semester.**

Provides 15 full, hot meals in the SAC Café each week. This plan offers a bonus \$100 in declining balance money which may be used in any campus dining location.

- **Plan C: 10 Meal Plan - \$1,040 per semester**

Provides 10 full, hot meals in the SAC Café each week plus \$75 in declining balance dollars.

- **Plan D: Declining Balance Plan - \$875.00 per semester.**

- **Plan E: Declining Balance Plan - \$500.00 per semester.**

All non-declining balance meal plans (A, B or C) offer a breakfast meal equivalency which may be used in the H&SS Station between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. as well as a lunch meal equivalency which may be used in the SAC Café, H&SS Station, or Pacer Market between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Commuter Meal Plan Options*

Although anyone can purchase a residential meal plan, two meal plans have been designed specifically with the commuter in mind.

- **Block 30 - \$280 per semester**

This meal plan provides 30 meals in the SAC Café and includes \$75 of declining balance dollars.

- **Block 50 - \$442 per semester**

This meal plan provides 50 meals in the SAC Café and includes \$125 of declining balance dollars.

**All meal plans are priced on a semester basis. Meals and Declining Balance Dollars do not roll over from semester to semester.*

Other Campus Dining Options*

Pacer Cards are ideal for those students who are not required to purchase a meal plan or as a supplement to an existing meal plan. Pacer Cards cost \$40.00 but grant \$44.00 of purchasing power and may be purchased in the Finance Office located in the Penland Administration Building. When one runs out, just stop by and purchase another.

For more information on Dining Services and meal plan options please visit the

Following website: <http://www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSSE/USCAiken>

~~~ Rates and meal plans may be subject to change. ~~~

## **DISABILITY SERVICES**

The Office of Disability Services seeks to assist students with disabilities in their college experience through an integration of on-campus services. A “qualified person with a disability” is defined as one who meets the academic and technical standards required for admission or participation in the postsecondary institution’s programs and activities. Appropriate documentation from a medical and/or psychological/psychiatric professional is required. Accommodations are made to allow equal opportunity and access in courses, programs, and activities, including co-curricular activities. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Office of Disability Services regarding their individual needs. Accommodations may include:

- Use of the Assistive Technology Center
- Distraction Reduced Testing
- Extended Testing
- Note Taking Services
- ASL Services
- Accessible Seating
- Priority Registration
- Accessible Parking
- Other services deemed appropriate

For further information, contact the Office of Disability Services by calling 803-643-6816 or stopping by the Assistive Technology Center, Room 134, Business and Education Building.

## **DISTANCE EDUCATION**

A few classes for undergraduate credit and many classes for graduate credit are offered through USC’s Distance Education. The course work is designed to meet the needs of traditional and non-traditional students, business professionals, and the community at large. Credits toward graduate degrees in Business Administration, Education, Engineering Journalism, Library and information Science, Nursing, Public Health and Social Work may be earned on the Aiken campus. Utilizing the entire range of educational technology, including closed circuit TV, DVD, and the internet, the residents of this region are able to take advantage of the resources of a much larger university without leaving the area. For information please go to the USC Distance Education Website at <http://www.sc.edu/dl/>.

## **FEES AND PRIVILEGES**

Fees are approved by the University Of South Carolina Board Of Trustees and are included as part of the overall tuition and fees paid by USC Aiken students, except as noted. Students enrolled for less than twelve hours pay the part-time rate, but have the same privileges as full-time students for these services and activities. Full-time fees are \$531 of the current overall full-time tuition and fees, and part-time fees are \$43 of the overall current part-time per hour tuition and fees.

*Athletics* - (\$225.00 per semester; \$19.00 per part-time hour) 11 intercollegiate sports are partially funded through the athletic fee: men's and women's basketball, men's varsity baseball, men and women's tennis, men's and women's soccer, women's cross country, women's volleyball and softball, and men's golf.

*Debt Service* - (\$241.00 per semester; \$19.50 per part-time hour) A fee to pay off the remaining balance on the bonded indebtedness on certain construction and renovation projects for the campus.

*Health Fee* - (\$32.00 per semester; \$2.00 per part-time hour) This fee allows students access to a range of health services. Information about the services provided can be obtained in the Student Life and Services Office (in the Student Activities Center).

*Student Activities* - (\$28.00 per semester; \$2.00 per part-time hour) This fee is used to fund the operations of the Student Activities Center and to fund Student Government, student organizations, and the Pacer Union Board.

*Student Media* - (\$5.00 per semester, \$0.50 per part-time hour) The funding for Pacer Times (student newspaper) and Broken Ink (literary magazine) are included in this fee.  
*Public Safety Fee* - (\$25.00 per semester) This separate fee is required of all students and includes maintenance of parking lots and parking lot/other security.

*Technology* - (\$120.00 per semester; \$9.00 per part-time hour) This separate fee is used for the acquisition and support of information technology (including computers) on the campus.

~~~ Fees subject to change – Fees listed are from 2013-2014 academic year. ~~~

FINANCIAL AID

USC Aiken participates in an array of financial aid programs which consists of scholarships, grants, loans, and student employment opportunities. The Financial Aid Office is located in Room 102 in the Penland Administration Building. For additional information, please come by the Financial Aid Office or contact a financial aid representative at 803-641- 3476, E-mail: StuAid@usca.edu, or fax (803) 643-6840.

GRADUATE OFFICE

The Graduate Office coordinates the offering of graduate courses on campus. Graduate degrees offered at USC Aiken include the M.Ed. in Educational Technology and the M.S. in Applied Clinical Psychology. The Graduate Office is located in the Penland Administration Building, Room 101F.

ID CARDS

All currently enrolled USC Aiken students are required to have a USC Aiken ID card. The ID card is an important item that allows access to University facilities and services and is designed to be checked by computer for validity. Certain services may be denied without an ID card. The ID card is a permanent card and is

valid as long as a student is officially registered. When a student registers and pays fees each semester, his/her card's validity is automatically updated through the computer. The card is the property of USC Aiken and is intended solely for its use. It is not transferable and must be returned upon request.

Students are responsible for reporting lost or stolen cards promptly; otherwise they may be liable for debts incurred through the use of the cards. Replacement cards cost \$25.00, and the charge will be billed to you through the Business Services Office.

ID cards are valid only when a student is enrolled in classes. Should a student withdraw or be suspended during the semester, the card will no longer be recognized by the computer system. If a student leaves USC Aiken and later returns, the student does not have to have a new card made. By registering and paying fees, the computer will recognize the card as valid once again. Questions concerning the ID card system can be answered in the University Police Office.

ID cards are made during all registration hours but otherwise on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the University Police Office.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

The Instructional Services Center's mission is to deliver and set up equipment for faculty, staff, and students with effective audiovisual services in support of classroom instruction to meet educational requirements, to provide and to maintain telecommunications/satellite services campus-wide and to provide assistance in multimedia and audiovisual services to outside organizations using USC Aiken facilities as part of a community and public service program. The ISC main office is located in the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The mission of the International Programs Office is to address contributions and concerns of international students and to coordinate programs and services that promote international awareness among USC Aiken students, faculty, and the Aiken community.

The International Programs Office provides services to international students on campus before they arrive with pre-departure information packets and immigration assistance; after they arrive with orientation sessions and relevant workshops; and while they reside at USC Aiken with academic, social and cultural guidance and advising. We work closely with student and community organizations to ensure that international students are well-adjusted and successful on campus.

We also provide information to USC Aiken students on existing study abroad, work abroad and volunteer abroad opportunities. The office works closely with faculty and staff to develop numerous study abroad programs and opportunities for

students and to assist faculty with international research and teaching projects.

Finally, the International Programs Office strives to increase international awareness on campus and in the larger Aiken community through campus lectures, panel discussions, an International Education Week filled with educational and fund activities, other cultural events, and through internationalizing the curriculum when appropriate.

The International Programs Office is located in the Student Life Office of the Student Activities Center. The Programs web page address is: <http://web.usca.edu/international-programs/index.dot>.

LIBRARY

The faculty, support staff, and collections of the recently renovated Gregg-Graniteville Library comprise an integral part of USC Aiken's instructional program. The following services and resources are available to all registered students:

Traditional and nontraditional library services

- Reference and research assistance
- Active library instruction
- Web-based interlibrary loan system
- Self-service photocopying equipment
- Website including information on library services, and links to numerous useful electronic resources.

The most up-to-date technology

- Online catalog linking all USC System libraries
- Internet access terminals
- Web-based electronic databases and periodicals with off-campus access for students
- Access to PASCAL and DISCUS databases
- Laptop checkouts for library use
- Access to books in all South Carolina academic libraries through PASCAL

An attractive, modern library facility

- Two-story 40,000 square-foot building
- Book and bound periodical collection of more than 230,000 volumes
- Microfilm collection numbering over 30,000 volumes
- Current periodical and newspaper collection of more than 500 paper and 4000 electronic titles.
- Official depository for United States government publications, South Carolina state documents, and the Department of Energy Public Reading Room collection. Over 70,000 documents in combined collections

Loan Period

- four weeks for current USC System students
- one week for juvenile collection books, DVDs, and CDs

- Reserve and interlibrary loan materials' loan periods vary

Overdue charges

- 25 cents per day for non-reserve items, with four day grace period. No grace period for overdue interlibrary loan items
- \$1.00 per day for reserve items. No grace period.

Hours

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. |

Variations for holidays, intersessions, summer term, and exam periods will be posted.

Presentation of current bar-coded University ID card is required for all check-outs and to pick up student printing.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items may be turned in or claimed at the University Police department located at Pacer Downs. If there is no one in the University Police department, the emergency phone located at the front of the building can be used to summon an officer.

REGISTRAR / VETERANS BENEFITS

The Office of the Registrar is responsible for a variety of ongoing services for the current student population at USC Aiken. This office registers all undergraduate students and keeps complete records of all transactions related to their enrollment. The office gathers and records the grades for all undergraduate students and implements the University's suspension and probation policy by tracking and keeping all related records of students on suspension and probation. Other services pertaining to a student's permanent record include name and address updates and proper recording and filing of all academic decisions and exceptions on students.

Students wishing to graduate from USC Aiken must complete a degree application available in the Office of the Registrar no later than the published date for that semester.

This office provides an academic calendar used by the entire University and also produces the USC Aiken Bulletin and the Master Schedule of Classes. Room scheduling for campus functions is handled in this office as well. The Office of the Registrar also assists students in applying for their veterans educational benefits. The Veterans Affairs Coordinator is required by federal law to monitor a student's enrollment each semester and report changes and discrepancies to the Veterans Administration as well as to insure that all students receiving such benefits are making satisfactory progress towards their chosen degree.

The Registrar's Office also coordinates the Visual Information Processing (VIP) System, which is a web system for students to use in registration and financial transactions. It is the method of choice for most students in completing a variety of transactions students have to do each and every semester. VIP is also the only means by which students receive grades. The address is vip.sc.edu.

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

USC Aiken has a Student Health Center (SHC) for the benefit of undergraduate students who become ill or sustain an injury while attending classes at USC Aiken. The SHC is located in Room 106 of the Student Activities Center, located beside student media and to the left of the natatorium. Services received in the SHC are free of charge, prepaid as part of tuition. The SHC does provide a few specialty services for which there are nominal charges; these include, but may not be limited to tuberculosis skin testing, immunizations, and selective health physicals. USC Aiken's Nurse Practitioners (NPs) provide primary care for common health problems. NP are specially educated registered nurses who have received an advanced practice degree in nursing at the graduate level with a specialized focus in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of common illnesses and injuries of the college aged student. USC Aiken's NPs treat those diagnoses frequently seen on college campuses.

A student may come in with a complaint similar to:

- "It hurts when I swallow."
- "I was late for class, running and fell down the steps. I think I broke my ankle."
- "My whole body aches. I have been hot, with the chills"
- "I have the worst headache ever. It especially hurts when I look at the lights or hear loud noises"
- "I threw up about 6 or 7 times last night."
- "I have this rash on my back."

Students are encouraged to visit the SHC if they have an illness or injury that they feel uncomfortable treating independently. A USC Aiken NP will guide the student through the healing process by assessing and diagnosing the problem, then providing the necessary treatment and follow-up care. There are times when a student's illness or injury might be more serious than the SHC staff can handle. During these times the student will need to be referred to a community physician or hospital. For this reason students are encouraged to carry individual health insurance in order to assist with the referral process and financial burden. The SHC staff also provides health promotion, health education and disease prevention information for the campus. They coordinate activities to ensure the campus is up-to-date on all health issues confronting the campus and surrounding community.

STUDENT LIFE AND SERVICES

The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services is located in the Student Life Office in the Student Activities Center. The Vice Chancellor is responsible for matters related to policies and procedures which affect students and the general quality of life for USC Aiken students. She is also responsible for the following departments and

functions: Athletics, Counseling Center, Disability Services, Health Center, Judicial Affairs, NCAA Compliance, Orientation, University Police, Student Life, Student Housing, and Student Media. Questions concerning student rights and responsibilities, discipline, and laws or regulations governing or affecting students' rights are handled through this office.

UNIVERSITY POLICE

The University Police Office is located at Pacer Downs and provides police protection 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for the safety of students, faculty, and staff.

The office provides many services to the campus community including:

- criminal investigations
- parking lot assistance
- escorts
- lost and found
- emergency phones
- enforcement of University rules
- enforcement of all state and local laws
- general information and assistance
- after hours building entry assistance
- police reports
- First Responder Medical Assistance
- Issuing and replacement of ID cards

University Police may be reached by dialing 6111 from an on-campus phone, or 648-4011 from an off-campus phone or by using one of the emergency call boxes located around campus. These numbers automatically connect with the officer's radio phone.

UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

USC Aiken Bulletin – Available online at <http://USC Aiken.edu>, it lists the academic programs of study, general University rules and regulations, admission policies, information on student activities, and other comprehensive information about USC Aiken

USC Aiken Magazine – Annual magazine published by the University Advancement Office containing news and feature articles about faculty, staff, students, and alumni

Student Handbook - Resource guide available online at <http://USC Aiken.edu> which includes student rights and responsibilities, policies, and services.

Master Schedule of Classes – Available online through VIP, it lists the academic calendar, information concerning registration and withdrawal procedures, the University's refund policy, and the final exam schedule.

Stall Wall Weekly/Cafe' News – Published weekly by the Student Life Office—they include information on campus events for the week.

SAFETY AT USC AIKEN

USC Aiken is concerned about safety issues for all students. The Student Right to Know Act gives all interested parties information concerning on-campus safety and crime. For information about the frequency and type of reportable incidents on campus, please contact the University Police at (803) 641-3319 or access the information at the following web address: www.usca.edu/ps

The USC Aiken campus is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by state-commissioned police officers. These officers are responsible for protecting members of the campus community, enforcing the law, and maintaining the physical security of the campus. The officers also attempt to deter crime through the application of crime prevention techniques and high visibility.

Emergency Telephones

Emergency telephones are provided at multiple locations on the campus. These devices provide direct access to University Police at all times. Additionally, University Police may be reached by dialing 6111 from any on-campus phone, or by dialing 648-4011 from an off-campus phone.

Escorts

To ensure safe passage to and from vehicles, University housing, classes, and buildings on campus, University Police officers will serve as escorts upon request. Students desiring this assistance should request it by calling University Police at 648-4011 from an off-campus or cell phone, 6111 from an on-campus telephone or from one of the emergency phones located throughout the campus.

Cameras

Security cameras are located at the entrance to campus buildings, Pacer Commons and Pacer Crossing. As areas are identified, additional cameras are added. The cameras can be monitored in the police department as well as patrol cars.

Off-Campus Housing

If off-campus housing is being considered, students and parents should be aware that Aiken County is served by three separate law enforcement units, with jurisdiction determined by location within the City of Aiken, the City of North Augusta, or the balance of the County, which is served by the Office of the Sheriff of Aiken County. Please contact rental agents for the County or City emergency numbers that might be helpful such as fire, police, and hospital. In addition, USC Aiken strongly suggests that all students considering off-campus housing contact the appropriate law enforcement agency for specific crime and safety information about the residential areas under consideration.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACT POINTS

Aiken County Sheriff's Office

Phone: (803) 642-1761 or 911 for emergencies

Web address: www.aikencountysheriff.org

City of Aiken Public Safety

Phone: (803) 642-7620 or 911 for emergencies.

STUDENT JUDICIAL PROCESS

The University of South Carolina Aiken, as an institution of higher education, accepts its obligation to provide for its students, faculty and staff an atmosphere that protects and promotes its educational mission and guarantees its effective operation. To accomplish these goals, the University requires certain standards of conduct. All students, faculty and staff at the University share the responsibility to respect:

- the fundamental rights of others as citizens;
- the rights of others based upon the nature of the educational process;
- the rights of the institution;
- the rights of everyone to fair and equitable procedures for determining when and upon whom sanctions for violations of University standards should be imposed;

The Student Judicial Policy is the essential component in guaranteeing due process for students at the University of South Carolina Aiken. This policy describes procedures for addressing 1) Violations of the Academic Code of Conduct and 2) Violations of the Non- Academic Code of Conduct, including violations by Student Organizations. Each of these processes is addressed in a separate section of this document. Procedures for redress in cases of sexual harassment are outlined in the [USC Aiken Sexual Harassment Policy](#).

Paper copies can be obtained from the [Human Resources Office](#).

DEFINITIONS

Class Day

A class day is any weekday in which the University is in session according to the [academic calendar](#). If the student is unable to meet stated deadlines due to the end of the semester or due to the summer school schedule, the student must, within ten (10) days of receipt of notification of being charged with a violation of the academic or nonacademic code of conduct, notify the appropriate Judicial Officer or Chair of the University Judicial Board that he/she intends to file a formal response to the charge when classes resume at the beginning of the next full semester.

Delivery of Written Notice

After the initial investigation, all written communications with the student in the judicial process must be delivered either by certified mail or delivered in person, with a signed and dated acknowledgement of receipt.

Hearing Officer

A Hearing Officer is a professional staff member designated by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer to adjudicate minor violations of the Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct. Hearing Officers include, but are not

limited to, the Director, Associate, and Assistant Directors of Housing, and the Associate and Assistant Directors of Student Life.

Judicial Officers

Academic Judicial Officer

The Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs designates the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs as the Judicial Officer for violations of the Academic Code of Conduct. The Office of Academic Affairs implements policies and procedures related to violations of the Academic Code and the imposition of sanctions in an efficient, consistent, fair, legal, and educationally meaningful manner.

Non-Academic Judicial Officer

The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services designates the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life as the Judicial Officer for violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct. In cooperation with other appropriate bodies, the Non-Academic Judicial Officer implements policies and procedures related to conduct violations and the imposition of sanctions in an efficient, consistent, fair, legal, and educationally meaningful manner.

Judicial Procedures Advisor

A Judicial Procedures Advisor is a faculty member who serves as an advisor to an accused student or student organization. The Judicial Procedures Advisor is an ex-officio participant in any student disciplinary procedure. The Judicial Procedures Advisor will maintain an objective position in advising the student or student organization. The Judicial Procedures Advisor is not an advocate who sides with either principal party involved in the disciplinary procedure but rather an advisor to guide the student in the procedures and in the unbiased collection of evidence to be used at a hearing, if such is necessary.

Preponderance of the Evidence

The preponderance of the evidence is a standard of proof that indicates that the evidence provided shows that “more likely than not” a violation occurred.

Presenting Party

The presenting party is/are the individual(s) who bring forth charges of alleged violations of the USC Aiken Student Code of Conduct. For the Academic Code of Conduct, this will generally be the faculty member teaching the course in which the alleged violation occurred. For the Non-Academic Code of Conduct, the presenting party will generally be the Non-Academic Judicial Officer; however, depending on the nature of the alleged violation, another faculty or staff member may be designated.

Student

For the purpose of this policy a “student” is defined as any person who is admitted, enrolled, or registered as a student at USC Aiken for any academic period. In addition, persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing student relationship with, or an educational interest in, USC Aiken are considered “students.” A person shall also be considered a student during any period following the end of either a spring or fall semester that the student has completed until the last day of registration for the next succeeding semester. A person shall also be considered a student during any period while the student is under suspension from

the institution or when the person is attending or participating in any activity preparatory to the beginning of school including, but not limited to, orientation, placement testing, and residence hall check-in.

University Judicial Board (UJB)

The University Judicial Board is a group of students and faculty who review cases

in which there are alleged violations of the Academic or Non-Academic Code of Conduct in an effort to determine if a violation(s) took place and, if so, the appropriate sanction(s) that should be assigned.

ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is the guiding principle of all aspects of the educational process. It is defined as respect for one's own work and for the work of others. By becoming a member of the University of South Carolina Aiken community, each individual agrees to abide by this principle. The principle of Academic Integrity and all procedures supporting it shall be referred to as the "Academic Code of Conduct". It is the responsibility of every student at USC Aiken to be familiar with the "Code", to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic requirements. Academic requirements are defined as works submitted for academic progression or graduation or any graduate or undergraduate course work. Any student who violates this principle, attempts to violate it, or who knowingly assists another in violating it shall be subject to discipline.

As members of the USC Aiken community, it is also the responsibility of every student, faculty and staff member to report violations of academic integrity to the faculty member in whose course these violations took place or to another person of authority such as a department chair/school head. The principle of Academic Integrity prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty – including cheating, lying, bribery and plagiarism. The following examples illustrate conduct that violates Academic Integrity, but this list is not exhaustive.

1. Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or attempting to give or receive such assistance in connection with the performance of any academic work.
2. Unauthorized use of materials or information of any type or the unauthorized use of any electronic or mechanical device in connection with the completion of any academic work.
3. Unauthorized use of any portable electronic device unless required for the course during a test period without consent of the instructor.
4. Access to the contents of any test or examination or the purchase, sale, or theft of any test or examination prior to its administration.
5. Use of another person's work without proper acknowledgment of source, i.e., plagiarism.
6. Intentional misleading of any person in connection with any academic work including the scheduling, completion, performance, or submission of any such work).
7. Offering or giving any favor or thing of value for the purpose of influencing improperly a grade or other evaluation of a student in an academic program.

8. Conduct intended to interfere with an instructor's ability to evaluate accurately a student's competency or performance in an academic program.

Only the appropriate faculty member can "authorize" assistance, use of materials, etc. Whenever a student is uncertain as to whether conduct would violate Academic Integrity, it is the responsibility of the student to seek clarification from the appropriate faculty member prior to engaging in such conduct.

Honor Pledge:

As a commitment to maintain Academic Integrity and accept academic responsibility, the following statement should appear on all major examinations and assignments: On my honor as a University of South Carolina Aiken student, I have completed my work according to the principle of Academic Integrity. I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this assignment/examination

(Signature)

(Date)

Student Responsibility:

- a) To conduct all academic work within the letter and the spirit of Academic Integrity prohibits giving and/or receiving unauthorized aid in all academic endeavors.
- b) To sign the Honor Pledge on all graded academic work certifying that no unauthorized assistance has been received or given in the completion of the work.
- c) To consult with faculty and other sources to clarify the meaning of plagiarism and to learn the recognized techniques of proper attribution of sources used to prepare assignments.
- d) To consult with faculty to identify allowable resource materials or aids to be used during examinations or completion of any graded work.
- e) To maintain the confidentiality of examinations by divulging no information, directly or indirectly, to another student who has not yet taken that same examination.
- f) To report observed Academic Integrity violations in a timely manner. When possible, violations should be reported to the faculty member in whose course these violations took place.

Classroom Behavior:

It is the instructor's right to remove from the classroom any student who disrupts or

disturbs the proceeding of the class. Disruption of the class includes but is not limited to the use of any portable electronic devices, including cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, etc. unless prior approval has been given to a student or unless required for the course. In extreme cases the faculty member can request assistance from University Police. If the student who has been ejected causes similar disturbances in subsequent meetings of the class, he/she may be denied admittance to the class for the remainder of the semester and assigned a grade of F.

Consequences for the Violation of Academic Integrity:

1. If the violation pertains to an assignment in a course, the faculty member

teaching the course in which the violation occurred may assign a 0 on the assignment or an F in the course.

2. If the violation pertains to a non-course degree requirement (Junior Writing Portfolio, Praxis exam, etc.) the student may fail to receive credit for the degree requirement for which the violation occurred. The consequence for the violation of a non-course degree requirement may be imposed by the appropriate department chair/dean.
3. In addition to the consequences listed above, the faculty member or department chair/ dean has the right to refer the violation to the UJB for possible disciplinary penalties. These disciplinary penalties include:
 - a. Expulsion - Dismissal from the University without the possibility of re- admittance.
 - b. Suspension for a Period of Time - Denial of enrollment, attendance, and other privileges the University for a specified period of time. Permission to reapply for readmission upon termination of the period may be granted.
 - c. Sanction -Sanctions may include, (but are not limited to), attendance at or participation in a program or community service, program development, and researching and writing a paper on a topic related to the violation.

The consequences listed in number three above (a. through c.) may be imposed by the University Judicial Board or at higher levels in the judicial process. Nothing in these procedures, including the imposition of any disciplinary penalty, shall be interpreted to limit the academic authority of an instructor to determine an appropriate grade for a student who has violated the Academic Code of Conduct. If an instructor determines that, because of academic dishonesty, a student's performance in an academic program merits a grade reduction or a failing grade, the instructor's authority to award an appropriate grade is not limited by the imposition of any penalty under this section.

Record of Violations

Violations are recorded as follows:

When a faculty member assigns a student a 0 or F for a violation as the final grade of record on an exam, assignment or requirement or an F in the course, the faculty member must notify the student within ten (10) class days of assigning the grade through a letter delivered as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice with copies to the department chair/dean of the faculty member making the charge, to the department chair/dean of the student's major, and to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The letter must state the violation, the sanction imposed and the student's right to appeal. Documentation of the violation (i.e., copies of tests, papers, etc.) should be included with the copies of the letter sent to the unit head and to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Recurring Violations of Academic Integrity

To insure that students do not continue to violate academic integrity, confidential files for violations shall be maintained by the Office of Academic Affairs and a University Judicial Board (UJB) hearing shall be held upon the accumulation of three violations. The purpose of the UJB hearing is to consider the pattern of a student's behavior. When three violation letters have been received, the Academic Judicial Officer shall:

1. Request a hearing by the University Judicial Board (UJB). The request must be made within ten (10) class days from receipt of the third letter;
2. Notify the student in writing of the request and deliver letter as specified under the definition of delivery or written notice; and
3. Forward these letters to the UJB Chair for use during the hearing.
4. The receipt of any subsequent letter charging the student with a violation of academic integrity would prompt another hearing by the UJB.

Due Process for Cases of Alleged Violations of Academic Integrity

Faculty Options

After imposing one of the “Consequences for the Violation of Academic Integrity,” the faculty member or department chair/dean may also seek further sanctions within ten (10) class days by requesting a hearing by the University Judicial Board through the UJB Chair; and by informing the student by delivering the letter as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice, with a copy to the unit head of the request for a hearing.

If the request is made by the faculty member, a copy of the letter will be sent to the faculty member’s department chair/ dean and to the department chair/dean for the student’s major.

Student Options

A student may accept the penalty imposed by the faculty member for violating academic integrity or he/she may appeal the penalty to the University Judicial Board. The student must request a hearing by the UJB in writing. The student’s written request for a hearing should be sent by certified mail or hand-delivered to the

Academic Judicial Officer. Such a request must be submitted within ten (10) class days of being made aware of a penalty for violating academic integrity.

Judicial Board Hearing

Any of the following actions will initiate a University Judicial Board hearing:

1. Request by faculty member
2. Appeal by student
3. Request by the Academic Judicial Officer upon the receipt of the third, and of any subsequent violation letter.

The UJB may impose disciplinary penalties, confirm previously imposed penalties, or dismiss all allegations regarding academic dishonesty. The UJB cannot alter or reverse a faculty member’s imposed penalty (i.e., grade). In the case of a student appeal of a faculty imposed penalty, the UJB may not impose a penalty stronger than the initial one.

Procedures

(See Information Regarding Administrative Hearings and Hearings of the University Judicial Board)

Appeal Options following UJB Decision

1. The faculty member or student may accept the decision of the University Judicial Board (case closed) or disagree and appeal the case to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The faculty member or student must file a written request with the Executive Vice Chancellor and deliver the letter as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice within ten (10) class days after receiving the decision of the UJB.
2. The Executive Vice Chancellor's decision to uphold or overturn the UJB decision, based upon a review of the evidence, must be returned within ten (10) class days. The Executive Vice Chancellor may or may not summon any principal in the case. The Executive Vice Chancellor may either confirm or reverse the decision of the UJB, or may alter the sanctions specified by the UJB. In the case of a student appeal, the Executive Vice Chancellor may not impose a penalty stronger than the sanction specified by the UJB. A written report of the Executive Vice Chancellor's decision will be delivered as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice to the student, and to the faculty member and unit head directly involved in the appeal. Copies of the report will also be sent to the department chair/dean.
3. If the faculty member or student is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may take the case to the Chancellor of USC Aiken. The faculty member or student must file a written request with the Chancellor and deliver it as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice within ten (10) class days after receiving the decision of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The Chancellor will review all materials pertaining to the hearing and arrive at a decision within ten (10) class days. The Chancellor may or may not summon any principal in the case. The Chancellor may either confirm or reverse the decision of the Executive Vice Chancellor, or may alter the sanctions. In the case of a student appeal, the Chancellor may not impose a penalty stronger than the sanction specified by the Executive Vice Chancellor. A written report of the Chancellor's decision will be sent to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the faculty member, the unit head and the student (delivered as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice) directly involved in the appeal.

Academic Penalty

At the conclusion of a case, after all appeal options have been exhausted by both parties, if the student is found not responsible for violating academic integrity, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will advise the faculty member to reassess the academic penalty (i.e., grade) within ten (10) class days and will notify the faculty member that he/she may be in an untenable legal position if he/she elects not to do so. The faculty member's reassessment of the academic penalty may or may not result in a different grade, depending on the quality of the student's performance on the assignment in question.

Final Disposition

The Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will be responsible for implementing sanctions imposed by the UJB or any level higher in the appeals process. The Executive Vice Chancellor will also inform the Registrar's Office if the sanctions require any restrictions on the student's future enrollment. The Executive Vice Chancellor will keep records of all foregoing procedures in a confidential file.

NON-ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The discipline system extends and applies the general principles of the Statement of Student Rights and Freedoms within the academic community to specific actions and responsibilities of students and student organizations at the University of South Carolina Aiken. It accepts the proposition that “academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the general well-being of society, and that free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the attainment of these goals.”
- B. As such the University strives to maintain an educational community which fosters the development of students who are ethically sensitive and responsible persons.
- C. The University of South Carolina Aiken strives to protect this educational community and to maintain social discipline among its students. Consistent with its purposes, reasonable efforts will be made to foster the personal and social development of those students who are held accountable for violations of University social regulations.
- D. The purpose of this document is to set forth the specific authority and responsibility of the university in maintaining social discipline, the educational process of determining student and student organization accountability for violating the regulations, and the proper procedural safeguards to be followed in this process to insure fundamental fairness and protect the students and student organizations from unfair imposition of serious penalties and sanctions.

II. APPLICATION OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- A. Students should be aware that educational institutions are not sanctuaries beyond the reach of the criminal laws of the communities and states where in such institutions exist. While the rules and regulations of the University of South Carolina Aiken are not meant to duplicate general laws, there are some aspects in which the lawful interest of the institution as an academic community coincide with the broader public interests treated in general laws. Students who commit offenses against the laws of municipalities, states, or the United States, are subject to prosecution by those authorities and may be subject to disciplinary action under university rules when their conduct violate Institutional standards.
- B. Students, no less than other citizens, are entitled to be secure in their persons, lodgings, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures. Searches and seizures by law enforcement personnel incident to investigations or arrests are conducted only under proper warrant. This does not prohibit normal inspections of facilities for maintenance, health, or safety purposes. NOTE: University Housing policies also allow for the entrance and inspection of student housing units if there is reason to believe that a violation of law or University policy exists, or for life safety and/or emergency circumstances.
- C. Students enjoy the same freedoms of speech and peaceable assembly as all citizens, but they are under certain legal obligations in the exercise of these freedoms by virtue of their membership in the University community. Expression may be subjected to reasonable regulations of time, place, number of persons, and form under established regulations. Expression in the form of action that materially interferes with the normal activities of the institution or invades the rights of others is prohibited. The University is pledged to protect lawful exercise of the rights

of free speech and assembly and will invoke appropriate legal and disciplinary sanctions when necessary in the pursuit of this goal.

- D. Students who are apprehended and charged by law enforcement agencies with felony criminal conduct on or off campus are required to inform the Non-Academic Judicial Officer.
- E. The standard of proof required in University judicial processes differs from that required in criminal judicial processes. In University judicial processes, the standard of proof required to find a person responsible for a violation is that of the preponderance of the evidence. That is, if the evidence provided indicates that “more likely than not” the violation occurred, the student will be held accountable for that violation.

III. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as individuals. All members of the University community are to use reasonable judgment in their daily campus life and to show due concern for the welfare and rights of others.
- B. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the University and the powers of the President, the Chancellor, and the faculty are delegated by the Board in accordance with policies. The faculty, subject to review by the Chancellor, the President and the Board of Trustees, has legislative powers in all matters pertaining to the discipline of students and student organizations.
- C. The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services is responsible for the judicial system that adjudicates violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct. The Vice Chancellor delegates responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct to the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life, who serves as the Non-Academic Judicial Officer. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer has designees, referred to as Hearing Officers, for specific cases. These Hearing Officers include, but are not limited to, the Associate and Assistant Directors of Student Life and the Director, Associate Director, and Assistant Directors of University Housing.
- D. Student Government, as an elected and representative voice of the student body, has the right to comment on any proposed changes pertaining to the discipline of students.
- E. The Campus Life Committee has the right to propose changes to the Non-Academic Code of Conduct, when appropriate. A report will be submitted to the Campus Life Committee in the Fall of each year detailing, without student names, the following: the behaviors which led to disciplinary action; the type of hearing; the decision of the hearing authority, including any sanctions; and general demographic data and student status for the student(s) charged.

IV. General Student Conduct Regulations

- A. This section establishes the rules and regulations all students of the University of South Carolina Aiken are expected to follow under the duty and corollary powers inherent in educational institutions to protect their educational purposes through the setting of standards of student conduct and scholarship and through the regulation of the use of University facilities.
- B. Students have a right to expect enforcement of these rules and regulations. The University also has the right to expect students to abide by them as befits the responsibilities of students as members of the University community. Knowledge of these rules and regulations can prove beneficial

to students in utilizing and protecting their guarded rights. It is important to add, however, that unfamiliarity with institutional regulations or rules is no ground for excusing infractions.

- C. Scope of Application-The University may take disciplinary action for a violation of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct when the offense takes place on University premises or at University sponsored, endorsed, supported or related events which occur off campus. The University may also take disciplinary action for off-campus offenses that are not related to the University when failure to do so is likely to interfere with the educational processes or orderly operation of the University, or endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the University community.

V. Conduct Regulations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct

The following statements constitute the official record of all general conduct rules and regulations at the University of South Carolina Aiken. Students are expected to abide by these regulations and administrators are expected to enforce them. These regulations should be read broadly and are not designed to define prohibited conduct in exhaustive terms. Additional rules and regulations may be promulgated during the year; announcements will be made upon adoption of the changes or additions.

NOTE: Attempting, abetting, or being an accessory to any act prohibited by the General Student Conduct Regulations shall be considered the same as a completed violation.

- Non-Compliance with General Laws

Students involved in violations of any federal, state, or local laws may be subject to disciplinary action. Any disciplinary action imposed by the University may precede and be in addition to any penalty imposed by an off-campus authority. Students who are apprehended and charged by law enforcement agencies with felony criminal conduct on or off campus are required to inform the Non-Academic Judicial Officer.

- Damage to Property

Damage to or destruction of property owned or operated by the university, its students, faculty, administration and staff, or of another institution is prohibited. Conduct which threatens to damage, or creates hazardous conditions such as dropping, throwing, or causing objects or substances to fall from windows, doors, balconies or roofs is also prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized application of graffiti, painting, etc.

- Firearms and Other Deadly Weapons

The unauthorized possession or use of firearms or a weapon of any other kind such as knives, slingshots, metal knuckles, razors, or any other dangerous instrument is prohibited.

- Flammable Materials and Fireworks

The ignition or detonation of anything that could cause damage by fire, explosion, or similar means to persons or property, or possession of anything in the nature of fireworks or explosives, is prohibited on any property owned or operated by the University without prior University authorization.

- Arson

No person shall start fire on University property without University authorization, and willful damage to property (as described above) shall be prosecuted as arson when appropriate.

- Emergency Alarms and Emergency Equipment

No person shall make, or cause to be made, false fire alarm, bomb threat or emergency report of any kind. No person shall tamper with, damage, disable or misuse fire or other safety equipment. Note to resident students: Students found in violation of tampering with, damaging, and/or disabling fire safety equipment in campus housing are also subject to fines.

- Gambling

Gambling is not permitted on campus.

- Theft or Misappropriation

Theft of any kind, including seizing, receiving, or concealing property with knowledge that it has been stolen, is forbidden. Sale, possession, or misappropriation of any property, including USC Aiken property, without the owner's permission is also prohibited. Property that is found shall be turned in to the University Police Office.

- Unauthorized Sale of Textbooks

The sale of a textbook by any student who does not own the book is prohibited without prior written authorization from the owner of the book. Books that are found shall be turned in to the University Police Office.

- Disorderly Conduct

Individual or group behavior which unnecessarily disturbs individuals or groups is prohibited. Such conduct includes (but is not limited to) physical assault or threat of assault, hazing, and boisterous conduct which is unreasonable in the area, time or manner in which it occurs.

- Misuse of University Documents

Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any University document(s) or record(s), including providing false information or withholding material information from the University, is forbidden.

- Fraud or Lying

Lying or fraudulent misrepresentation in, or with regard to, any transaction with the University, whether oral or written, is prohibited, including misrepresenting the truth before a hearing of the University or making a false statement to a University official.

- University Identification Cards

Lending a University ID card to anyone, failing to present an ID card when requested by a University official, or altering an ID card may subject the owner and/or the holder to disciplinary action.

- Failure to Respond to Official Requests

Students must comply with the reasonable and lawful requests of University acting in the performance of their duties. Students are expected to appear at disciplinary hearings to respond to allegations or testify as a witness when reasonably notified to do so. Failure to properly comply with or complete a sanction or obligation resulting from a disciplinary hearing or adjudication may be considered violation of an official request. A registration hold may be placed on a student's records until such time as the student complies with the request.

- Unauthorized Presence In and Use of University Facilities

Unauthorized entry into, presence in or use of University facilities or property is prohibited. Unauthorized entry into any faculty or administrative office, unauthorized entry into a faculty member's or administrators automobile or unauthorized access to student records will be considered a violation of the Academic Code of Conduct of the Student Judicial Policy.

- Misuse of Keys

No person may use or possess any University key without proper authorization. No student is allowed under any condition to have a University key duplicated.

Note to Resident Students: Loaning residence hall keys to a person not assigned to that room/apartment is considered a violation of this regulation.

- Disruptive Activity

No person may interfere with or disrupt the normal activity and operations of students, faculty, administration, or staff of this institution or its buildings or facilities. Any form of expression that materially interferes with such activities and operations or invades the rights of persons may be proscribed or prohibited.

NOTE: To remain in the vicinity of activity which threatens to disrupt or is disrupting normal University functions may have serious legal and disciplinary implications. Bystanders as well as more active participants in the disruptive activity may be charged with jointly engaging in an enterprise which is prohibited by law. Students should accordingly avoid the scene of any disruptive or potentially disruptive action. In any case, failure to leave when asked to disperse by University or law enforcement officials will result in disciplinary and/ or legal action.

NOTE: In any case where students of the University of South Carolina Aiken are involved in action which is disruptive of the normal activities of the institution or its personnel, or which exceeds the bounds of normal internal discipline in its impact, the Board of Trustees may exercise its right to name a Special Hearing Board, Committee, or officer to investigate the questioned action and to initiate appropriate disciplinary or other measures.

- Misuse of Telephones and other Communication Equipment

No student shall misuse or abuse or assist in the misuse or abuse of communication equipment at the University. Such activity includes, but is not limited to, using any form of communication equipment to harass or threaten any person or persons, making unauthorized calls on University telephones, or using any form of communication equipment to disrupt the

normal operations or activities of any person, organization, or the University. Communication equipment includes, but is not limited to, telephones, electronic mail, pagers, computers, printers, etc. The viewing of pornography on University computers is forbidden. The viewing of child pornography is ILLEGAL and is subject to prosecution by local, state, or federal authorities.

- Alcoholic Beverages

It is unlawful, and therefore a violation of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct, for a student to violate any provision of the USC Aiken Policy on the Use of Alcohol by Students, which is stipulated in the Student Handbook.

Note to resident students: The Office of University Housing has developed and published specific regulations in the Community Guide for Housing concerning alcohol use, including where it may be consumed, who may consume, and who may be present when alcohol is being served and/or consumed.

- Drugs

The possession, use, manufacture, sale, or distribution of any counterfeit, illegal, dangerous, or controlled drug without a prescription or the possession of drug paraphernalia, such as pipes, bongs or any items modified or adapted so that they can be used to consume drugs are not permitted on University premises or at any University sponsored activity. Note to resident students: The Office of Housing has developed and published an explanation of sanctions in the Community Guide for Housing related to students who use, purchase, possess, or sell drugs, which includes the possible termination of the Housing Contract by the University.

- Student Housing

Violation of any student housing regulation is prohibited. These regulations may be found in the Community Guide for Housing. These policies extend to residents, as well as guests and visitors, although students living in campus housing will be held responsible for the actions of their guests.

- University Policies and Procedures

Failure to abide by any published University policy or procedure is prohibited, including, but not limited to the Sexual Assault, Use of Alcohol, Use of Drugs, Hazing and Computer Use Policies.

II. PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLATIONS OF THE NON - ACADEMIC CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Jurisdiction

1. Major Violations

- a. Major Violations are serious or repeat violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct. Determination of “Major Violation” status is made by the Non- Academic Judicial Officer.
- b. Major Violations may include, but are not limited to, sexual assault, use or sale of drugs, arson, and theft. Repeated minor violations may also be classified as a “major violation.”

- c. Major Violations are adjudicated via Formal Administrative or University Judicial Board Hearings or Administrative or University Judicial Board Sanctioning Meetings, depending on the circumstances.

2. Minor Violations

- a. Minor Violations are less serious or first time violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct. Determination of "Minor Violation" status is made by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or appropriate Hearing Officer.
- b. Minor Violations may include, but are not limited to violations of the tobacco/smoking policy, minor alcohol violations and general conduct violations.
- c. Minor Violations may be adjudicated via Informal Administrative, Formal Administrative or University Judicial Board Hearings or Administrative Sanctioning Meetings, depending on the circumstances. See Chart B.
- d. Minor Violations that occur within Housing, Greek Life, Intramurals, or Student Organizations may be adjudicated by the appropriate hearing officer, as referred to under the definition of "Hearing Officer."

B. Reporting of Violations

1. Any member of the University community may initiate non-academic disciplinary proceedings concerning an alleged violation of the Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct.
2. The complaint must be made in writing and submitted to the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or the appropriate Hearing Officer.

C. Determination of Charges

1. Upon receiving a complaint of misconduct, or upon his or her own initiative, the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer will review relevant facts and consult with relevant parties through investigative meetings regarding the incident in question, including the student who is believed to be directly involved.
2. If the evidence warrants disciplinary action, written notification (according to the definition of written notice) will be sent to the accused student indicating the nature of the activity in question and the specific charge being made against them.
3. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer may at any time during the disciplinary proceedings make additional charges or withdraw charges against student. In either case, the Officer will send written notification (according to the definition of written notice) to the student.

D. Procedures

1. After investigating relevant facts and meeting with relevant parties, including the student involved, the Non-Academic Judicial Officer may opt to file charges of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct. The student will be sent a letter as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice indicating the charges that have been filed.

NOTE: If the student fails to meet with the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or

Hearing Officer during the investigation, a hold may be placed on the student's registration preventing him/her from registering for future classes until the matter is resolved. Additionally, the student may be charged with a violation of the "failure to comply" provision of the Non-Academic Student Code of (Section IV. D. 14).

2. If, in the course of the investigation, the student accepts responsibility for the violation, charges will be filed immediately and the case will proceed as outlined below:

- 1) When a student accepts responsibility for a Minor Violation, an Administrative Sanctioning Meeting will be held.
- 2) When a student accepts responsibility for a Major Violation, he or she will:
 - 3) Meet with a Judicial Procedures Advisor to review the options, and decision of "responsible" or "not responsible" will be made based on the available information, with or without the accused student being present.
 - 4) Choose either an Administrative Sanctioning Meeting or a University Judicial Board Sanctioning Meeting.

NOTE: The Non-Academic Judicial Officer may decline to serve as the sanctioning authority and require that sanctioning be provided by the University Judicial Board

3. If the student denies responsibility for the violation and is charged by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer, the charged student will be required to do the following:

- 1) Meet with a Judicial Procedures Advisor to review the options.
- 2) Choose one of the following options to resolve the charges:
 - 1) Plead "not responsible" to the charge(s) and have a hearing before the University Judicial Board where a decision of "responsible" or "not responsible" will be made by the Board. If found "responsible" by the University Judicial Board, an appropriate sanction will be determined by the Board.
 - 2) Plead "not responsible" to the charge(s) and request an Informal Administrative Hearing before the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer. If found "responsible" by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer, an appropriate sanction will be determined by the officer. An Informal Hearing allows the charged party to present evidence for consideration and suggest witnesses that the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer may consider interviewing before decision is rendered. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer may contact other parties who have knowledge/information regarding the incident in question. The charged student waives the right to question such parties or otherwise participate in the hearing.

NOTE: The Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer may decline to hear the case because of conflict of interest or severity of the case and require either a Formal Administrative or University Judicial Board Hearing be

held, where a determination of “responsible” or “not responsible” will be made. Plead “not responsible” to the charge(s) and request a Formal Administrative Hearing before the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer. If found responsible by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer, an appropriate sanction will be determined by the officer. Formal hearing allows the charged party to respond to charges, present witnesses and present questions for the witnesses to answer.

NOTE: The Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer may decline to hear the case in this manner due to conflict of interest or severity of the case and request a University Judicial Board Hearing be held, where a determination of “responsible” or “not responsible” will be made and sanction assigned, if appropriate.

NOTE: If at any time during the proceedings a student admits responsibility for the violation, the procedures outlined in Section D.2 will take effect.

NOTE: If an accused student fails to respond to the charge(s) and/or fails to respond to the Non-Academic Judicial Officer’s request for an investigative meeting to discuss the alleged violations, he or she forfeits the above options and will be sent a letter as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice at least ten (10) days before the upcoming University Judicial Board hearing. At this hearing a decision of “responsible” or “not responsible” will be made, based on the available information, with or without the accused student being present. When appropriate, a sanction will also be determined and the student will be notified in writing.

NOTE: If disciplinary charges are brought against a student during summer sessions, the student will have the option of an Administrative Hearing before the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer during the summer or a hearing before the UJB in the fall.

4. Following the Hearing or Sanctioning Meeting

a. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer or University Judicial Board Chair shall be responsible for forwarding the written decision of the hearing or sanctioning authority to the charged party as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice. The letter will consist of:

- 1) Statement of charges;
- 2) Findings of the hearing authority and the rationale for the findings, if appropriate;
- 3) Sanction(s) and the rationale for the sanction(s), if appropriate; and
- 4) Statement regarding the right to appeal and the appeal procedures, if appropriate.

b. A student found responsible will have ten (10) class days from the date of documented receipt of the decision letter to submit a written request for an appeal to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services (see “Appeals Procedures”). The appeal request must state the reason(s) for believing the decision of the original hearing authority to be improper. If there is no appeal within this time limit, the Non-Academic Judicial Officer will implement the sanction.

5. Appeal Process

- a. In the event the charged student disagrees with finding of responsibility or sanction of any original hearing or sanctioning meeting, the charged student may request an appeal in writing to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services within ten (10) class days from the date the original decision was issued. In the case of an appeal, original sanctions (except summary suspension) are normally postponed until the Vice Chancellor makes a decision on the appeal.
- b. If the student has not met with a Judicial Procedures Advisor (in the case of a minor violation), one will be appointed at this time.
- c. The request for appeal will be by letter addressed to the Vice Chancellor and will state the reasons for believing the decision of the original hearing or sanctioning authority to be improper. The appeal must be based on and limited to one or more of the following aspects of the original hearing or sanctioning meeting:
 - 1) The finding of responsibility was not supported by reliable and substantial evidence presented at the original hearing;
 - 2) The disciplinary sanction was too severe;
 - 3) A procedural error was committed which prejudiced the outcome of the case;
 - 4) The original hearing authority misinterpreted the rule or regulation under which the student was charged to the prejudice of that student.
- d. The Vice Chancellor will review all materials pertaining to the case and arrive at decision within ten (10) class days. The Vice Chancellor may or may not summon any principal in the case. The Vice Chancellor may either confirm or reverse the decision of the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or UJB, or may reduce the sanctions. If the Vice Chancellor determines that new information is available that was not available at the time of the original hearing or sanctioning meeting and that this information may have altered the outcome of the original hearing, the case may be remanded to the original hearing authority.

NOTE: The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services may decline to serve as an appeal authority if he/she has had extensive involvement in the case (such as in the case of summary suspension).

- e. The Vice Chancellor will notify the student in writing of the decision and deliver the letter as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer will implement the decision.
- f. Decisions of the Vice Chancellor may be appealed to the Chancellor of the University of South Carolina Aiken within ten (10) class days of the date of documented receipt of the written decision of the Vice Chancellor.
- g. The Chancellor will review all materials pertaining to the case and arrive at a decision within ten (10) class days. The Chancellor may or may not summon any principal in the case. The Chancellor may either confirm or reverse the decision of the Vice Chancellor or may alter the sanctions. The Chancellor may not impose penalty stronger than that imposed or confirmed by the Vice Chancellor. The decision of the Chancellor in an appellate matter is the final decision for the University. Written notification of the Chancellor's decision will be delivered as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice to the student who has made an appeal, and copies will be sent to the Vice Chancellor, the Non-Academic Judicial Officer, and any other hearing officers involved in the case.

6. Sanctions

The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon students found in violation of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct. Sanctions may be imposed either singularly or in combination. The purposes of imposing sanctions are twofold: one, to protect the University community from behavior which is detrimental to the community; and two, to educate students about acceptable parameters and the consequences of their behavior. The severity of the sanction imposed is intended to correspond with the severity or frequency of violations as well as the student's willingness to recommit himself or herself to good citizenship through behaviors that fall within the conduct regulations of the University. Failure to comply with a disciplinary sanction or condition will result in a "HOLD" being placed on the student's official university record or transcript and will result in further disciplinary charges.

a. Expulsion

Dismissal from the University without the possibility of re-admittance. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer shall automatically refer this sanction to the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services for review prior to implementation. In the case of suspension, immediate steps will also be taken to remove the student from the USC Aiken campus.

b. Suspension for a Period of Time

- 1) Denial of enrollment, attendance, and other privileges at the University for specified period of time. Permission to reapply for readmission upon termination of the period may be granted with or without qualifications.
- 2) Any student suspended for a period of time must vacate the campus within forty- eight (48) hours from the date the notice of suspension is delivered as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice and may not return to campus or University property during the term of the suspension without prior permission of the Non-Academic Judicial Officer.

c. Suspension Held in Abeyance

- 1) A sanction given for a period of time, which indicates that the serious nature of the conduct violation would normally result in a student's suspension from the University, but given the extenuating circumstances, this suspension is not immediately put into effect. Any serious violation of rules, regulations or laws while the suspension is held in abeyance may result in suspension from the university.
- 2) In the event a student is accused of violating the conditions of a suspension held in abeyance, the student will be notified to appear before the original hearing authority or other appropriate authority. This hearing authority will determine whether or not there is sufficient information to determine that the terms of the suspension held in abeyance were violated. If the terms of the suspension held in abeyance were violated, the student will be given an opportunity to show cause why he or she should not be suspended. The original hearing authority will make a decision as to whether the student should be suspended immediately or the initial sanction should remain in effect.

d. Disciplinary Probation

Disciplinary probation is a period of review and observation during which a student is under an official warning that his or her misconduct was very serious. While on disciplinary probation, a student may be considered to be "not in good standing" and may face specific limitations on his or her behavior and/ or University privileges (see Conditions). Subsequent violations of university rules, regulations, or policies are likely to result in a more severe sanction including suspension from the University.

e. Conditions

Conditions include limitations upon a student's behavior and/or University privileges for a period of time, or a stipulation in conjunction with another sanction. This sanction may include, (but is not limited to): denial of the right to represent the University in any way, restrictions on participation in co-curricular activities, denial of parking privileges or access to campus facilities including computer labs or the Wellness Center.

f. Reprimand

A reprimand is an official rebuke making conduct a matter of record in University files. Any further misconduct could result in further disciplinary action.

g. Restitution

An order to make restitution is issued when a student has engaged in conduct injurious to property (individual, group, or the University) for which monetary damages may be ascertained. For example, this sanction may be assessed in cases of property damage, theft, fraud, deception, or misappropriation.

h. Educational Sanction

Educational sanctions may include, but are not limited to, attendance at or participation in a program or community service, program development, and researching and writing a paper on a topic related to the violation.

7. Summary Suspension

- a. Summary suspension is an action which requires a student to immediately leave University property, and not return during the suspension period, and comply with other stated conditions for specified period. Suspension may be imposed upon a student by the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services or designee when there is reason to believe, based on available facts, that the student represents an immediate threat to the safety, health or welfare of himself/herself, other persons or property.
- b. This action is warranted by potential or threatened danger or disruption, but is indicated only when the serious nature or immediacy of the threat makes it impractical to follow normal disciplinary procedures. Summary actions authorized by this policy include:
 - 1) Temporary suspension of a student's eligibility for enrollment or attendance, as well as denial of the student's access to University facilities or property. A student may be summarily suspended for specified period of time or the suspension may be scheduled contingent upon certain events or conditions.
 - 2) Temporary suspension or limitation of a student's eligibility to enjoy certain kinds of events without the suspension of enrollment status. This summary action may prohibit a student's presence on university property or certain facilities or impose conditions which must be met in order for that student to enjoy certain privileges, participate in activities, or attend events.
- c. When a student is summarily suspended, he or she is given a copy of this policy and notice explaining the reason for and duration of the suspension, as well as any conditions that may apply. A student notified of such summary action shall, upon written request, be given an opportunity to meet with the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services or designee within ten (10) class days from the date of receipt of the request. This meeting will be held to consider only the following issues related to the summary action:
 - 1) the reliability of information alleging a student's misconduct; and,

- 2) Whether the conduct or surrounding circumstances reasonably indicate the student's presence on campus or continued unrestricted participation in campus affairs would pose an immediate threat to the safety, health or welfare of persons or property. It is not the purpose of the meeting to hear evidence concerning guilt or innocence of pending or possible charges against the student.
- d. Following the imposition of summary suspension, standard University disciplinary procedures will be provided as expeditiously as possible. Unless circumstances render the implementation of standard disciplinary procedures impossible or unreasonably difficult, these procedures will be initiated within ten (10) class days from the effective date of the summary action.
- e. Any student who is summarily suspended and returns to the campus or University property and/or violates other stated conditions during the specified period will be subject to further separate action and may be treated as a trespasser. Permission to be on campus for specific purpose (e.g., to take an exam, to consult with the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services or to participate in disciplinary procedures) must be requested and obtained in writing or by telephoning prior to any conduct contrary to the suspension or conditions and may be granted by the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services.

I. Records

1. Record of Major Violation cases which have been resolved with a sanction less than suspension will be maintained by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer for a period of 7 years from the date of the last offense. Students graduating before that time may petition the Non-Academic Judicial Officer in writing to request that their records be destroyed upon graduation. Records may be retained by the University beyond the normal 7-year period in special circumstances, including, but not limited to, situations when legal action is taken by any party involved.

When a date for purging records has been reached, records in all formats are to be destroyed. Note: Statistical data may be retained but all information that would identify an individual will be removed.

2. Records where the discipline sanction was suspension will be maintained for a period of at least ten (10) years from the date of the last incident.
3. Persons who are not directly involved with a discipline case, an appellate review of a decision or the enforcement of a sanction will not have access to the record or results of a hearing or sanctioning meeting without a legitimate educational need to know or the authorization of the charged party.
4. Notices of Minor Violations will be kept for a period of 7 years from the date of the last offense, however, will not be classified as official University disciplinary records or provided for authorized inquiry (i.e., background checks for employment, military service or graduate school).

J. Student Arrests

1. Students at the University of South Carolina Aiken are to abide by University regulations as well as local, state, and federal laws. While University regulations are not meant to duplicate general laws, there are some ways in which the lawful interest of the University community coincides with the broader public interests of general laws (see section, "Application of Laws and Regulations"). Therefore, students involved in the commission of offenses against local, state or federal laws are subject to prosecution by those authorities and, in addition, may be subject to University disciplinary action when

their conduct violates University standards.

2. Students who are apprehended and charged by law enforcement agencies with a felony on or off campus are required to inform the Non-Academic Judicial Officer.
3. If disciplinary charges are brought against a student as the result of a felony arrest or conviction, an Administrative Hearing is not a student option and the charges will be heard by the University Judicial Board.VI.

VI. STUDENT ORGANIZATION NON-ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE SYSTEM PROCEDURES

While students act as individuals and are held accountable for these actions under the Non-Academic Code of Conduct, student organizations or groups may be held responsible if there is an appearance that the student's behavior was condoned or can be tied to the group or organization.

The system for responding to alleged misconduct by student organizations parallels the system outlined in the Non-Academic Code of Conduct and operates according to the rules and procedures of that system. Areas where the process for adjudication of student organization violations differs from the process outlined in the Non-Academic Code of Conduct are delineated below.

VII. JURISDICTION

The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services will serve as the Non-Academic Judicial Officer for Major Violations involving student organizations.

V.B. PROCEDURES

An official representative(s) of the organization will be provided the opportunity to talk with a Judicial Procedures Advisor in all cases except where the organization accepts responsibility for a Minor Violation.

A. APPEAL PROCEDURES

1. In the event the charged student organization disagrees with the finding of responsibility or sanction of any original hearing, the charged student organization may request an appeal in writing to the Chancellor of USC Aiken within ten (10) class days from the date the decision is issued.
2. The request for appeal will be by letter addressed to the Chancellor and shall state the reasons for believing the decision of the original hearing authority to be improper. The appeal must be based on and limited to one or more of the following aspects of the original hearing:
 - a. The finding of responsibility was not supported by reliable and substantial evidence presented at the original hearing;
 - b. The disciplinary sanction was too severe;
 - c. A procedural error was committed which prejudiced the outcome of the case;
 - d. The original hearing authority misinterpreted the rule or regulation under which the student was charged to the prejudice of that student.
3. Under normal circumstances, if student organization files for an appeal, the original sanction, except Summary Suspension, will be postponed until the appeal has been considered and a decision is rendered by the Chancellor. Exceptions to the postponement of original sanctions may be implemented by

the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services when he or she has determined that the continued activities of the organization and its membership may cause an immediate threat and/or undue concern within the University community.

4. The Chancellor will review all materials pertaining to the hearing and arrive at a decision within twenty (20) class days. The Chancellor may or may not summon any principal in the case. The Chancellor may either confirm or reverse the decision of the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services or University Judicial Board, or may alter the sanctions. If the Chancellor determines that new information is available that was not available at the time of the original hearing and that this information may have altered the outcome of the original hearing, the case may be remanded to the original hearing authority.
5. The Chancellor will notify the student organization in writing of the decision and deliver as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice. The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services will implement the decision.
6. Decisions of the Chancellor in all appellate matters are the final decision for the University.

B. SANCTIONS

The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed upon student organizations when they have been found responsible for violating conduct regulations. All sanctions may be imposed either individually or in combination. Disciplinary sanctions are imposed for the purpose of holding student organizations and their membership accountable for their actions and the actions of their guest(s), whether on campus or at any organization- sponsored function.

1. Permanent Revocation

Permanent revocation of the organization's registration means revocation without leave to apply for new registration. Any organization whose registration is permanently revoked must cease all organizational activities upon receipt of the notice of permanent revocation. Any member of an organization whose registration has been permanently revoked will relinquish any appointed or elected office held with that organization's governing body. Balances of all organizational funds granted by the Student Government Finance Committee are to be surrendered to the custody of the SG Finance Committee. Office or other space assigned by the University will be vacated immediately. Space vacated due to suspension may be reassigned to other eligible University organizations.

2. Suspension means denial of rights and privileges of a registered organization for a period to exceed two (2) calendar years. Any organization whose registration is suspended or revoked must cease all organizational activities upon receipt of the notice of revocation or suspension. Any member of a suspended organization may not hold an appointed or elected office with that organization's governing body for the duration of the organization's period of suspension. Balances of all organizational funds granted by the Finance Committee of Student Government are to be surrendered to the custody of the SGA. Suspended organizations will automatically be placed on probationary status for a minimum of one academic year following their renewed registration.

3. Disciplinary Probation

Limitations upon an organization's privileges for a period not to exceed one (1) calendar year are classed as disciplinary probation. Subsequent violations of University rules, regulations, or policies could result in a more severe sanction including suspension. During the probationary period, a student organization is deemed "not in good standing" with the university and may be subject to one or any combination of the following conditions and/ or restrictions:

- a. Denial of the right to represent the University;
- b. Denial of the right to maintain an office or other assigned space on University property;
- c. Denial of the privileges of:
 1. Receiving or retaining funding;
 2. Participating in intramurals;
 3. Sponsoring any social event;
 4. Sponsoring any speaker or guest on campus;
 5. Participating in any social event;
 6. Co-sponsoring any social event or other activity;
 7. Rush or membership recruitment.
4. Conditions
 Conditions may include limitations upon a student organization's privileges for a period of time or a stipulation in conjunction with another sanction. This sanction may include, for example, denial of social privileges, etc.
4. Reprimand
 A reprimand is an official rebuke making the misconduct matter of record in University files for specified period of time. Any further misconduct could result in further disciplinary action.
4. Restitution or Fines
 An organization may be ordered to make restitution when the organization has engaged in conduct injurious to property (individuals, group, or University) for which monetary damages may be ascertained. Restitution may be in the form of financial payment, community service, or other special activities designated by the hearing authority. Additional fines may be assessed as punitive measure.
5. Educational Sanction
 Educational sanctions may include, but are not limited to, attendance at or participation in a program or community service, or program development.

C. SUMMARY SUSPENSION

1. The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services may suspend or restrict a student organization for an interim period pending disciplinary proceedings when there is reasonable cause to believe that the continued activities of the organization and its members may pose an immediate threat to the safety, health, or welfare of individuals or interrupt the normal functions of the University community. During the interim suspension or restriction period, the organization may be required to cease all organizational activities and vacate any assigned University space immediately upon written notice from the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services.
2. When a student organization is suspended or restricted, on a summary basis, the organization's acting President will be given notice of the reasons for the suspension or restriction, the duration, and any special conditions that apply. A representative of the suspended or restricted organization shall be given an opportunity to meet with the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services within ten (10) class days from the effective date of the temporary suspension or restriction. The meeting will be held to consider only the following issues relating to the temporary suspension or restriction:
 - a. The reliability of the information alleging the organization's misconduct.

Whether the conduct and surrounding circumstances reasonably indicate that the continued activities of the organization would pose an immediate threat to the safety, health, or welfare, or interrupt the normal functions of the university community.

- b. It is not the purpose of the meeting with the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services to hear evidence concerning guilt on the pending charges against the organization. A Judicial Board or Administrative Hearing will be conducted to determine responsibility or non-responsibility of the within a reasonable time period and upon notification of all parties intramurals.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE AND UNIVERSITY JUDICIAL BOARD HEARINGS

A. JUDICIAL PROCEDURES ADVISOR

1. The Judicial Procedures Advisor will be chosen from a pool of ten faculty members by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer (for violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct) or by the Academic Judicial Officer (for violations of the Academic Code of Conduct), depending upon the nature of the case.
2. The Faculty Assembly will elect (during its regular faculty elections in the spring semester) one faculty member from each college and each school to serve staggered two-year terms in the Judicial Procedures Advisor pool.
3. The Student Government Association will choose by April 30 one faculty member from each college and each school to serve in the pool for the following academic year. If the five members of the pool are not selected by April 30 by the Student Government, the Campus Life Committee has the authority to make those appointments.
4. The Judicial Procedures Advisor must not be a faculty member from the same department or school as the department or school in which the student is enrolled and must not have any conflicts of interest in regard to principal parties involved in the disciplinary or grievance procedure.
5. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer will maintain the list of members of the Judicial Procedures Advisor pool. Except in instances of conflicts of interest or long-term absence from campus, advisors should be available to consult with students on short notice.
6. If the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or the Chair of the University Judicial Board cannot appoint any of the ten faculty members in the pool for reasons cited above, the Executive Vice Chancellor or Vice Chancellor will appoint someone from the general faculty after consultation with the Chair of the Faculty Assembly and the President of the Student Government Association.
7. Judicial Procedures Advisors may not speak on behalf of the student(s) during the proceedings.

II. STUDENT RIGHTS IN A FORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE OR UNIVERSITY JUDICIAL BOARD HEARING

A. Prior to a confidential, closed hearing, accused parties are entitled to:

1. A written notice of the charge(s) from the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or the Chair of the University Judicial Board, an outline of their rights and the name of the Judicial Procedures Advisor assigned to the case. In the event that additional charges are brought, a further written notice must be forwarded to the student. The charged may waive the right to separate written notice of additional charges in order to reach a timely resolution of the matter.

2. A meeting with the Judicial Procedures Advisor where the charged student shall have all the disciplinary procedures fully explained. In non-academic cases, the charged student shall be informed at this time (or when it is known) if the administration intends to seek suspension or expulsion.
 3. Review all available information, documents, exhibits and a list of witnesses that may be asked to present information at the hearing. This is a continuing obligation of the presenting party and the Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Chair of the University Judicial Board.
 4. Be assisted by an advisor or counsel of choice in addition to the Judicial Procedures Advisor. The advisor or counsel of choice, with the written permission of the charged student(s), may:
 - a) Advise the parties about the preparation and presentation of the case;
 - b) Accompany the accused parties to all judicial proceedings; and
 - c) Have access to evidence, witness list, documents and exhibits relating to the case.
 - d) Further, the advisor or the counsel of choice may not speak on behalf of the student(s) during the proceedings.
 5. A written notice of time, place, format of the hearing, and the names of the UJB members (if appropriate) at least five (5) class days prior to the hearing unless the student(s) or student organization(s) waives all or part of the notice period. The formal hearing will not be held less than five (5) Class days from the date that the original charge letter was issued, unless the charged party waives this limit.
 6. Challenge UJB members for cause. Cause is defined as personal bias, prior involvement, or inappropriate access to information concerning the incident.
 7. File a request to have additional observers from the University community present during the hearing. The request must be filed with the hearing authority at least three days prior to the hearing. The request shall be granted unless the hearing authority feels that the presence of these observers will detract from a fair and orderly hearing.
- B. During a hearing (original or appellate), the charged party is entitled to:
1. Appear in person, hear all testimony, present any relevant information, call witnesses, and ask questions of witnesses present at the hearing.
 2. Elect not to appear at the hearing, in which case the hearing shall be conducted in the charged party's absence.
 3. Refuse to answer any questions or make a statement; however, the hearing authority shall make its decision solely on the basis of information introduced at the hearing.
 4. Be judged responsible only upon finding that, based upon the preponderance of the evidence, that the evidence provided shows that "more likely than not" a violation occurred.
 5. If found responsible, the charged student may elect to call no more than three character witnesses to speak on his/her behalf prior to the sanctioning portion of the hearing. This is the only time when character witnesses (those witnesses that are not providing direct evidence related to the case) will be allowed.
 6. Confidentiality in all matters related to the case. All statements, information, or comments given during disciplinary hearings will be held in strictest confidence by the Academic and Non-Academic Judicial Officers, members of the UJB, university staff, and witnesses before, during, and after

deliberation. Only duly authorized persons or faculty and staff with an educational need to know will be informed of the proceedings and outcome. All Academic and Non-Academic disciplinary hearings will be recorded by the UJB Chair or the Non-Academic Judicial Officer. Deliberations will not be recorded. Recordings and all documents will be kept securely by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer in non-academic cases or the Office of Academic Affairs in academic cases.

- C. Following the hearing, the charged party is entitled to:
 - 1. Appeal the decision of the University Judicial Board or Non-Academic Judicial Officer.
 - 2. Request a duplicate copy of the recording at his/ her/ its own expense within a period of six (6) months from the date of the hearing.
- D. Charged students are prohibited from contacting, or having someone contact on their behalf, members of the UJB or the Hearing Officer to discuss matters related to the case before or after the hearing. Questions regarding procedures may be addressed to the Judicial Procedures Advisor or the appropriate Judicial Officer.

III. UNIVERSITY JUDICIAL BOARD HEARINGS

A. Membership of the University Judicial Board

- 1. For each hearing, the University Judicial Board is composed of the University Judicial Board chair, two faculty members, and one alternate selected from a pool of faculty chosen by the Campus Life Committee, and three students plus one alternate from a pool of students selected as described below.
- 2. Students interested in serving on the University Judicial Board should fill out an application available in the Student Life Office. Out of all the applicants, an appropriate pool of students will be selected to serve by the Academic and Non-Academic Judicial Officers and designees.
- 3. The UJB chair will be appointed to a two year term by the Campus Life Committee by April 30th each year from among the faculty members on the University Judicial Board.
- 4. All board members will serve for one year, and they may be re-selected to serve consecutive terms.
- 5. A quorum will consist of the University Judicial Board chair, two faculty members, and two students.
- 6. Alternates should attend all proceedings until the UJB Chair feels that their service is no longer needed, but do not have voting status unless called upon to replace one of the members of the board during a hearing.

B. Board members excluded from deliberations:

- 1. A board member associated with any of the principals involved.
- 2. A board member with a conflict of interest in a particular situation.

C. Procedures

- 1. The University Judicial Board Chair will:
 - a) Ensure the confidentiality of the proceedings,

- b) Request the appropriate Judicial Officer to appoint a Judicial Procedures Advisor,
 - c) Schedule a hearing within ten (10) class days of receipt of a request for a hearing and hold the hearing within 20 class days of the original receipt of the request,
 - d) Locate space for the hearing,
 - e) Notify, in writing, all participants, including the presenting party and UJB members,
 - f) Provide for the recording of the hearing,
 - g) Resolve all questions of scheduling and deadline,
7. Ensure that all parties, including members of the UJB, the charged student(s) and the presenting party have access to any evidence to be presented in the hearing,
 8. Moderate the hearing and closed deliberations to ensure fairness to all parties, to prevent the harassment or intimidation of participants, and to conduct an efficient hearing,
 9. Send a letter to the student stating the decision of the UJB, the sanction (if any imposed), and the student's right to appeal, and
 10. Forward the file to the Non-Academic Judicial Officer for violations of the Non-Academic Code and to the Office of Academic Affairs for violations of the Academic Code;
 - a. Any member of the UJB may require the Board to go into private session to discuss and decide a matter by majority vote.
 - 1) The Chair can recess the hearing at any time.
 - 2) The Chair shall insure that all procedures are appropriately followed.
 - b. All hearings shall be conducted in an informal manner and technical rules of evidence will not be applied. The involved parties and / or the Board may call witnesses. In addition to the UJB, the charged student(s) and presenting party have the right to ask questions of these witnesses; however all questions must be directed to the UJB chair. Only UJB members and the accused party (ies) will have the right to question witnesses. Counsel may not speak on behalf of the student. The taking of statements of witnesses may be done by discussion, though the testimony of each witness may be subject to question and rebuttal. Witnesses shall be present only during the time they are testifying. While written statements are admissible, both the charged party and the presenting party shall have the opportunity to question and rebut this testimony, unless extenuating circumstances preclude this option.
 - 1) Recordings of the hearings and all other evidence will be kept secure by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer in hearings involving violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct and by the Office of Academic Affairs in hearings involving violations of the Academic Code of Conduct.
 - 2) The charged student may request a duplicate copy of the recording at his/ her own expense within a period of six (6) months from the date of the hearing.
 - c. After all information has been presented, the UJB shall meet in

private to discuss the case, reach its decision, and, if appropriate, determine a sanction. On rare occasions, the Board may deem it necessary to seek more information and hold an additional session. The final decision must be rendered within 7 class days of the initial hearing. Determination of responsibility must be agreed upon by at least two-thirds of the members of the UJB. If the UJB determines the student has violated the Non-Academic Code of Conduct or the Academic Code of Conduct, the student's past record of violations will be presented to the UJB in the presence of the charged student, who may comment on the past record. This information will be presented to the UJB by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer for violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct, or by the Academic Judicial Officer for violations of the Academic Code of Conduct. The UJB will consider this record in determining an appropriate sanction. The UJB may impose sanctions or it may confirm, alter or reverse previously imposed penalties. Only UJB members will be present during deliberations and any determination of sanctions.

- d. Once the UJB has reached a decision, the principal parties will be informed in writing by certified mail within 2 class days. The records of the hearing will be forwarded to the Non-Academic Judicial Officer in hearings involving violations of the Non-Academic Code of Conduct, or to the Office of Academic Affairs in hearings involving violations of the Academic Code of Conduct. In hearings for academic violations, the Office of Academic Affairs will inform the Department Chair/School Head and the faculty member of the UJB decision.

All records of hearings for violations of the Non-Academic Code shall be kept in a confidential file maintained and preserved by the Non-Academic Judicial Officer. All records of hearings for violations of the Academic Code of Conduct shall be kept in a confidential file maintained and preserved by the Office of Academic Affairs.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of the student grievance procedure is to provide each student enrolled at USC Aiken with a standardized, formal process for seeking a resolution when, in the student's judgment, he/she has been treated unfairly or improperly. Students seeking redress of grievances may do so without fear of reprisal. Students enrolled in USC Aiken off-campus programs, once a Change of School Form has been completed, shall be entitled to relief from any academic complaint or grievance through the student grievance procedure established in the applicable USC Regional Campus Student Handbook. After a judgment has been rendered on that campus, an appeal to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Aiken and a subsequent appeal to the USC Aiken Chancellor may be made.

B. DEFINITIONS

Class Day

A class day is any weekday in which the University is in session according to the academic calendar. If the student is unable to meet stated deadlines due to the end of the semester or due to the summer school schedule, the student must, within ten (10) days of receipt of notification of being charged with a violation

of the academic or nonacademic code of conduct, notify the appropriate Judicial Officer or Chair of the University Judicial Board that he/she intends to file a formal response to the charge when classes resume at the beginning of the next full semester.

Delivery of Written Notice

All written communications with the student in the grievance procedure must be delivered either by certified mail or delivered in person, with a signed and dated acknowledgement of receipt.

Judicial Officer

The Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will serve as the Judicial Officer for grievances against faculty or staff members in the Offices of Academic Affairs, Academic Success, Institutional Effectiveness, Instructional Services or any academic department or school. The Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life will serve as the Judicial Officer for grievances against any other staff member. If the grievance is against the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs or the Associate Director of Housing and Judicial Affairs, the immediate supervisor will serve as the Judicial Officer.

Judicial Procedures Advisor

A Judicial Procedures advisor is a faculty member who serves as an advisor to a student or student organization. The Judicial Procedures Advisor is an ex-officio participant in any student grievance procedure. The Judicial Procedures Advisor will maintain an objective position in advising the student or student organization. The Judicial Procedures Advisor is not an advocate who sides with either principal party involved in the grievance procedure an advisor to guide the student in the procedures and in the unbiased collection of evidence to be used at a hearing, if such is necessary.

Senior Administrator

Senior Administrators are university administrators who report directly to the Chancellor of USC Aiken and include the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services, the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services, the Vice Chancellor for Advancement, and the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology. Student Grievance Committee

The Student Grievance Committee is comprised of the chair (a faculty member who also serves as the chair of the University Judicial Board), three faculty members and three students appointed by the chair from the UJB pool, and two staff members or administrators who are chosen by the chair from a pool of five (5) staff members appointed by the Chancellor by April 30 of each academic year. The chair, three students, three faculty members and the two staff persons or administrators constitute a quorum of the Committee. If any member of the Student Grievance Committee is involved in the grievance, that member will be excluded from all deliberations concerning the grievance. Temporary replacement members of the committee will be appointed by the Chair of the Student Grievance Committee.

C. GRIEVANCES

Unfair or improper treatment of a student by a faculty/ staff member may be defined as:

1. An instructor's or staff member's failure to abide by stated University policies (including policies related to the adverse effects on a student's academic standing due to problems in the instructor's ability to write or speak English) or state law; or an instructor's failure to abide by written or stated course requirements.
2. An instructor's prejudiced or capricious evaluation practices which result in grades

being assigned based on factors other than the student's performance on coursework. The procedures herein shall not extend to matters of grading student work where the substance of a complaint is based on the student's disagreement with the mark or grade placed on the student's work in partial or complete fulfillment of the course. Such matters shall be discussed by the student and the faculty member; however, the final decision regarding grade assignment rests solely with the faculty member. This responsibility for the assessment of student academic performance is integral to the nature of an academic institution and to the professional competency of its professoriate.

3. Discrimination against students by faculty or staff in academic or nonacademic matters for reasons of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability or veterans' status.
4. Improper personal or professional behavior involving faculty, staff or administrators, excluding charges of sexual misconduct which are addressed by the USC System Sexual Harassment Policy. In addition to sexual harassment, the following issues cannot be addressed using this grievance procedure: disciplinary decisions, housing appeals decisions, residency classification decisions, traffic appeals decisions or any other type of decision where a clearly defined appeal process exists.

D. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

All student grievances must follow the steps outlined below and meet all time requirements. If at any point during the grievance process someone fails to act within the requisite number of days, the principal parties in the grievance may appeal to the next step. Changes in the time requirements may be made if both parties involved in the grievance agree. At any time during the grievance process, the student may request the appropriate Judicial Officer to appoint a Judicial Procedures Advisor to assist with the process.

- Step 1: If a student believes that he or she has been treated unfairly or improperly by a faculty or staff member, the student must schedule a conference with the faculty/staff member to discuss the matter within ten (10) class days of the incident/situation in question. The faculty/staff member must agree to meet with the student within five (5) class days of the request. The student must explain his or her position to the faculty/staff member and attempt to understand the justification for the faculty/staff member's actions. The purpose of this meeting is to attempt to reach a mutual understanding and to resolve all differences in an informal, cooperative manner.
- Step 2: If the student is not satisfied with the result of this informal meeting, the student must submit a written request for a formal meeting to the faculty/staff member's immediate supervisor to discuss the student's complaint within five (5) class days of the meeting. The written request should include the name of the individual whom the student is submitting a complaint against, a brief explanation of the complaint and the action taken thus far (in Step 1). The supervisor must meet with the student, interview the individual against whom the complaint is being made, and deliver a written response as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice to both parties within ten (10) class days of receipt of the student's request. In cases where there are intermediate supervisors between the immediate supervisor and the senior administrator, this step will be repeated for each intermediate supervisor. If the complaint is lodged against a senior administrator or the immediate supervisor is a senior administrator; the student should skip Step Two and proceed to Step Three.
- Step 3: If the student is dissatisfied with the results of the meeting with the immediate supervisor (and intermediate supervisor, if applicable), the student must submit a written request to the appropriate Judicial Officer within five (5) class days for a formal meeting with a Judicial Procedures Advisor. The Judicial Officer will appoint a Judicial Procedures Advisor and inform the student of the appointment within five (5) class days of receiving the written request. The Student will meet with the Judicial

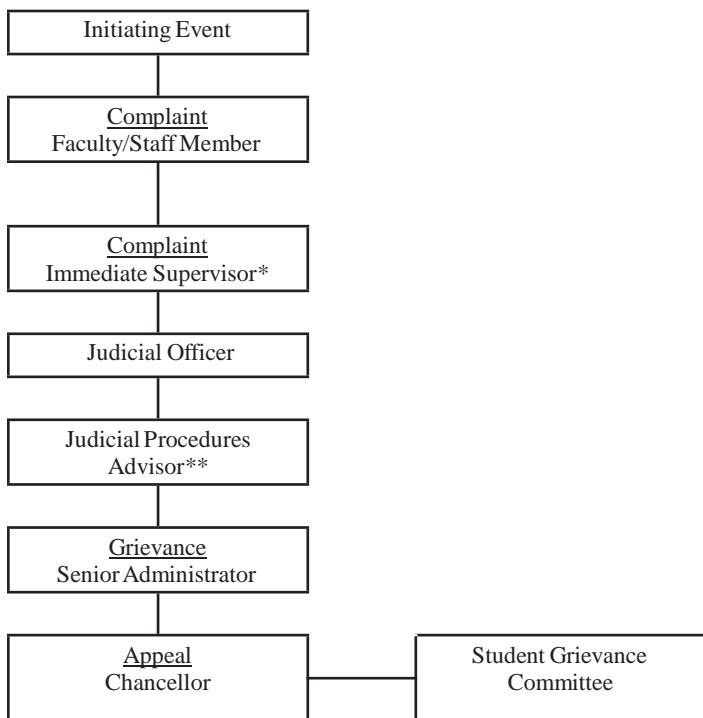
Procedures Advisor within five (5) class days of the appointment. The student has five (5) class days from the meeting with the Judicial Procedures Advisor in which to file a written grievance and deliver it as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice to the appropriate senior administrator. The written grievance should specifically state what the student is grieving and provide an outline of the charges and dates/ times of pertinent events, including the action taken thus far. Grievances against administrators reporting directly to the Chancellor will be sent to the Chancellor, who will assign another senior administrator to conduct the grievance hearing and make a recommendation to the Chancellor.

Step 4: Within five (5) class days the appropriate senior administrator will schedule a grievance hearing that must include all parties directly involved with the grievance. The hearing will be recorded by the senior administrator and these recordings will be maintained by the USC Aiken Director of Human Resources. The senior administrator must render a decision and notify the parties involved and the immediate supervisor as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice within ten (10) class days of the hearing. The decision will also include notice of the student's right to appeal to the Chancellor.

* In cases where there are intermediate supervisors between the immediate supervisor and the senior administrator, the grievance will follow the chain of command. If the complaint is against a senior administrator or someone who reports to a senior administrator, Step 2 is skipped.

** The student may request a Judicial Procedures Advisor at any time during the grievance procedure. A JPA is required prior to meeting with the senior administrator.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE



E. APPEALS

Step 1: If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the appropriate senior administrator and chooses to appeal, the student may submit a written appeal to the Chancellor. This appeal must be delivered as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice within five (5) class days after the appropriate senior administrator's decision is received and must include a reason for the request for review, an outline of the charges and dates/ times of pertinent events, and a list of any witnesses who may have given testimony.

Step 2: The Chancellor will forward the appeal to the Student Grievance Committee for its review. The Student Grievance Committee serves in an advisory capacity only. Prior to the meeting of the Student Grievance Committee, the Chair will send the student written notice of the meeting, including names of the individuals who will be serving on the committee. The student has the right to challenge Student Grievance Committee members for cause. Cause is defined as personal bias, prior involvement or inappropriate access to information concerning the case. During closed deliberations, the Committee will consider the request for review and any documentation relevant to the case and may call relevant parties, including witnesses, to clarify the record. The student has the right to appear before the Committee. The Committee must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chancellor within ten (10) class days of receipt of the request. The final Committee report may contain majority and minority recommendations.

Step 3: The Chancellor must review the appeal and the report from the Student Grievance Committee and may review any records or recordings related to the case and talk with

anyone involved in the case or the review of the case prior to making a decision on the case. The Chancellor must render a decision within ten (10) class days of receipt of the report from the Student Grievance Committee. A written statement of the Chancellor's decision will be delivered as specified under the definition of delivery of written notice to the parties directly involved, the appropriate supervisor(s), the appropriate senior administrator and the Chair of the Student Grievance Committee. A record of each grievance brought to the attention of a senior administrator will be kept in a secure file in the office of the Director of Human Resources.

POLICY ON THE USE OF ALCOHOL BY STUDENTS

This policy governs students' consumption of alcohol (defined as beer, wine, and distilled spirits) on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus and at University-sponsored off-campus events. Based on a concern for the welfare of all student members of the University community and in keeping with state and local laws, this policy is designed to promote the responsible use or non-use of alcoholic beverages. Consistent with our institutional mission statement, USC Aiken values responsible citizenship. Students are expected to assume responsibility for their own behavior while consuming alcoholic beverages and to understand that being under the influence of alcohol in no way lessens accountability to the University and the community. Behavior and conduct by a student whose judgment is impaired due to substance abuse and which interferes with the decorum and atmosphere of the University will not be tolerated. As members of the University community, students are expected to comply with and abide by all of the laws and policies stated below.

I. South Carolina Law

It is against South Carolina law and USC Aiken policy to:

- A. purchase, possess* or consume any alcoholic beverage if you are under the age of twenty-one
- B. provide any alcohol to a person under twenty-one by transfer, gift or sale
- C. misrepresent your age for the purpose of procuring alcohol including possessing a false or altered driver's license or ID
- D. drive while under the influence of alcohol
- E. have a blood alcohol level of .02 or higher while driving a vehicle if you are under the age of 21 (zero tolerance)
- F. have an open container of alcohol in a moving vehicle
- G. be intoxicated in public

* including constructive possession which is defined as being in the immediate area of alcoholic beverages

II. Local Ordinance (City of Aiken)

It is against local ordinance and therefore University policy to consume alcohol in public within the city limits. Pacer Downs, Pacer Crossings, and Pacer Commons are located within the city limits. Therefore, consuming alcohol on apartment balconies or on the housing grounds.

III. Statement of Policy

A. This policy is subject to change to comply with new local, state, or federal laws or changes in University operating procedures pertaining to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

B. Legal consumption of alcohol is permitted only at events and locations approved by the Chancellor or a designee. Consumption of alcohol is also permitted in private residences within University housing provided all individuals present are of legal drinking age and all related policies as outlined in the University Housing handbook are followed. Underage residents whose roommate(s) are 21 years of age or over may be present when alcohol is present or being consumed in their apartment, but are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages.

C. Students living in or visiting University housing are subject to additional policies as outlined in the University Housing guidebook (also included in the USC Aiken Student Handbook).

D. Any containers of alcohol that are being transported must be sealed and covered while on University premises.

E. The possession or use of an empty or full keg, party ball, or other common container of alcohol is strictly prohibited.

F. On-campus consumption of alcohol is prohibited at all Student Activity and Student Organization events.

G. Individuals will be held responsible for their behavior while under the influence of alcohol. Failure to comply with South Carolina State law and University policy may subject the person or group to State and/or University penalties.

H. Students under 21 who are in the direct vicinity of alcoholic beverages may be charged with constructive possession of alcohol and/or referred for University judicial action.

I. Regardless of the age of the student, the abuse of alcohol that results in significantly impaired behavior is considered a violation of the alcohol policy.

J. If a student fails to comply with the request of a University Police Officer to complete a sobriety test, it will be considered an automatic admission of having consumed alcohol.

IV. Sanctions

Individual students or student organizations who violate USC Aiken policies are subject to civil, criminal and University proceedings and sanctions. The University campus is not a sanctuary that relieves students of their responsibilities as citizens to abide by local, state and federal laws, and University regulations, policies, and procedures. Violations of this Campus Alcohol Policy will be referred to appropriate University agencies. Students and student organizations may be subject to sanctions by more than one appropriate agency. Sanctions for the violation of University policies are based on the severity and frequency of violation. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to: referral to on or off-

campus alcohol assessment and/or counseling, alcohol education, community service, disciplinary probation, suspension of individual students, suspension from use of University facilities for a designated period of time, and suspension of student organization status.

V. Related Issues

A. Students or student organizations suspected of violating federal, state or local laws may be subject to University judicial proceedings. Disciplinary action may be imposed by the University under the USC Aiken Code of Conduct, whether or not a civil or criminal conviction is made.

B. Students, faculty or staff who serve or sell alcohol to students at off- campus events assume liability for enforcing the law and assuring appropriate behavior. In such instances, USC Aiken assumes no responsibility or liability.

C. USC Aiken Student Activities funds may not be used to purchase alcohol for any on or off-campus event.

D. Students who are apprehended and charged by law enforcement agencies with alcohol-related criminal conduct off campus are required to inform the Director of Housing and Judicial Affairs.

VI. Parental Notification Policy

In 1998, changes in the law that governs the privacy of student records, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), permitted colleges and universities to inform the parents/guardians of students under the age of 21 when they determined the student violated University alcohol and drug policies. We at the University of South Carolina Aiken believe such notification can help us in educating our students. While we constantly strive to educate and empower students to make more responsible decisions about drug and alcohol usage, we know that the support of parents in this process is critical. The University of South Carolina Aiken typically exercises its right to notify parents of students under 21 in the following situations:

- Cases involving drug violations
 - Repeat or serious alcohol violations
- The University also reserves the right to notify parents for first alcohol violations if deemed appropriate.

POLICY ON THE USE OF DRUGS BY STUDENTS

The University of South Carolina Aiken recognizes that drug abuse is one of the major problems confronting our society. Within the University community, services are available to reduce the problems associated with drug abuse. Students with drug problems may seek confidential counseling and advice through the USC Aiken Counseling Center and the USC Aiken Student Health Center. A list of additional resources can be found in the USC Aiken Student Handbook. Although the University recognizes the need for providing remedial services, it does not intend to shelter persons who violate state or federal drug or narcotics laws. University officials will assist and cooperate with law enforcement personnel as they perform their duties in controlling drug abuse. Students charged with violating state and federal laws are subject to further disciplinary action by the

I. Statement of Policy

The possession, use, manufacture, sale or distribution of any counterfeit, illegal, or controlled drug without a prescription or the possession of drug paraphernalia, such as pipes, bongs, or an items modified or adapted so that they can be used to consume drugs are not permitted on University premises or at any University-sponsored event.

Specific prohibited actions include:

1. the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illegal drugs or controlled substances*
2. being in the presence of illegal drugs or controlled substances
3. the possession or sale of drug paraphernalia (such as roach clips, bongs, water pipes, cocaine spoons, etc.)
4. the distribution or delivery of an imitation (“look alike”), non-controlled substance which is represented as a controlled substance

* The term “controlled substances” refers to those drugs and substances whose possession, sale or delivery results in criminal sanctions under South Carolina Law.

II. Sanctions

1. Legal

As citizens, students have the responsibility for knowing and complying with the provisions of state and federal law related to drugs. A student who violates any of these laws is subject to prosecution and punishment through the legal system. Information on federal and state drug laws and penalties is provided in the USC Aiken Student Handbook. (Students who are apprehended and charged by law enforcement agencies with drug-related criminal conduct, off campus are required to inform the Director of Housing and Judicial Affairs).

2. University Disciplinary

In addition to any federal and state charges, a student is subject to disciplinary action through the University judicial process. This process may precede criminal or civil proceedings. It is not “double jeopardy” for both the civil authorities and the University to proceed against and sanction a person for the same specified conduct.

- a. The University considers any violation of the drug policy to be a serious offense. The University will respond to all reported violations of this policy in accordance with disciplinary procedures included in the Student Handbook. Although violations will be handled on a case by case basis, any violation that is deemed to be a threat to the safety and health of the campus community will result in summary suspension prior to a formal hearing. Sanctions that may be imposed by the University include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Suspension
- Summary Suspension
- Suspension Held in Abeyance with Conditions

- Expulsion
- Counseling
- Educational Programs
- Conditions and Restrictions
-

3. University Housing

A student who is suspected of violating the drug policy while living in on-campus housing will be subject to immediate removal from housing as a response to violating the terms of the housing contract.

III. Eligibility for Federal and State Financial Assistance

Students found in violation of the drug policy jeopardize their ability to receive federal and state financial assistance for which they might otherwise be eligible.

IV. Parental Notification Policy

In 1998, changes in the law that governs the privacy of student records, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), permitted colleges and universities to inform the parents/guardians of students under the age of 21 when they determined the student violated University alcohol and drug policies. At the University of South Carolina Aiken, we believe such notification can help us in educating our students. While we constantly strive to educate and empower students to make more responsible decisions about drug and alcohol usage, we know that the support of parents in this process is critical. The University of South Carolina Aiken typically exercises its right to notify parents of students under 21 in the following situations:

- Cases involving drug violations
- Repeat or serious alcohol violations

The university also reserves the right to notify parents for first alcohol violations if deemed appropriate.

IV. Future Revisions

The University of South Carolina Aiken reserves the right to update this policy. Students are responsible for being aware of changes as they are disseminated to the campus community.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES: ALCOHOL and OTHER DRUGS

This information is provided to meet federal standards set forth in the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. It is intended to benefit students and others associated with the University of South Carolina Aiken. Additional information is available through the resources referenced or through the USCA Office of Student Life and Services.

HEALTH RISKS

Faculty, staff and student employees should be aware of health risks associated

with:

- the use of alcohol, particularly high risk use,
- the use of illicit drugs,
- the misuse of over-the-counter and prescription medications, and
- the combination of two or more drugs.

The likelihood of negative physical and/or psychological effects is increased by:

- the type, amount and strength of the drug or drugs used,• interactions of two or more drugs,
- physical and emotional state
- physical differences in body size and condition, gender, age and family history,
- activities engaged in while under the influence.

Problems endangering health also occur if the use of mood altering substances is combined with activities involving coordination and judgment skills, such as driving. The use of some drugs, particularly cocaine, pose health risks if used during strenuous physical activity. The following sections more clearly define the major health risks associated with the use of the most reported drugs of choice.

Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages, in the form of beer, wine, wine coolers or distilled spirits, require no digestion and are absorbed directly into the bloodstream from the digestive tract. Within approximately three minutes after drinking, alcohol may be found in the brain and all other tissues, organs and body fluids. Alcohol depresses the central nervous system. **At low levels, vision, judgment and complex motor skills and behaviors are impaired, making it dangerous to drink and drive.**

Not only are persons under the influence of alcohol less able to perform the many complex tasks involved in safe driving, they cannot judge their own levels of impairment. Motor coordination can be affected for up to 10 hours after consumption of the last drink. Because alcohol decreases inhibitions, users may do things they normally would not do.

Long-term consumption of moderate to large quantities of alcohol can cause cirrhosis of the liver. **Heavy drinking may cause serious nervous and mental disorders, including permanent brain damage.** Ulcers, heart disease, gastritis, pancreatitis, diabetes, malnutrition and some cancers are also more common among chronic heavy drinkers than among the general population. Heavier users may also experience periods of amnesia called blackouts. During these periods, the person functions, but later cannot remember what he or she has done during this time.

Physical addiction to alcohol can occur after many years of heavy drinking or, for some individuals, soon after the first drink. Addicted persons feel that they need alcohol for their brains to function normally, and they experience withdrawal when alcohol use stops. Moderate withdrawal symptoms include craving alcohol, anxiety, weakness, tremors, and perspiration. More severe

withdrawal symptoms include nausea, vomiting, seizures, convulsions, hallucinations, and delirium tremors. Severe alcohol withdrawal can be fatal.

Other serious hazards associated with the use of alcohol beverages are Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and other alcohol-related birth defects.

Drinking by the mother during pregnancy places the unborn child at risk, affecting the child's development. Conditions seen in FAS children include:

- mental retardation;
- a pattern of abnormal facial and body features;
- central nervous system abnormalities.

Not all infants born to women who drink exhibit abnormal development. "Safe" levels of alcohol use during pregnancy have not been established, and it is currently recommended that pregnant women abstain.

Marijuana (pot, weed, herb)

The effects of marijuana use depend upon the percentage of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) present, the method in which the marijuana is ingested and the expectations of the user. **Researchers now know marijuana has a strong carcinogenic effect, greater even than smoking tobacco.** Users may experience a rapid heart rate and rising blood pressure. Additional undesirable effects include drowsiness, dry mouth, bloodshot eyes and an increase in appetite. High doses can cause confusion and double vision, and some users experience rapid mood changes and panic, although the latter is rare.

Heavy smokers of marijuana risk lung damage and cancer as well as damage to the breathing tubes. Lesser doses may cause irritation of the throat and lungs. **The influence of marijuana, just as with any other mind altering drug, makes it doubly dangerous for those who choose to drive while "under the influence." Marijuana causes a lack of coordination and a distortion of sensory perceptions, sometimes lasting more than 24 hours.** The presence of any mind altering drug tends to impair judgment so that the individual may not notice these deficits as they occur. Most users who stop marijuana use note a greatly improved memory within three months.

Marijuana is not currently known to be physically addictive, but individuals report that continuous use leads to a reliance on the drug to deal with stress and discomfort. If marijuana or any other drug is used to avoid dealing with difficult situations, the problem has become severe. Research has demonstrated that more than 90% of users of heroin, cocaine and other drugs began with the use of marijuana as their first illicit substance. This should not be interpreted to mean that marijuana directly leads individuals to those drugs. Rather, **the use of one illicit substance removes barriers which may then lead individuals to try other illicit drugs.**

Cocaine (coke, blow)

Cocaine occurs in several different forms. Cocaine powder usually inhaled through the nose, while “crack,” a form of freebase cocaine, is usually smoked. Effects of cocaine use on the body include dilated pupils, constricted blood vessels and increases in blood pressure, heart rate, breathing and body temperature. When cocaine is snorted over a period of time, the constrictive effect on blood vessels in the nose can cause cells of its mucus membrane lining to die, resulting in ulceration of the tissue, breathing difficulties, and possible perforation of the septum, the wall dividing the two halves of the nose. Smoking cocaine is the more rapid, dangerous, and potentially fatal way of use. It can cause lung irritation, swollen glands, and soreness in the neck, chest and cheeks. Smoking the drug may also produce confusion, slurred speech, anxiety and serious psychological problems.

Cocaine use has both short term and long term effects. Use stimulates the brains pleasure centers and the user will often prefer the drug to food, sex, family and friends. When the drug-induced euphoria wears off, depression results, causing the user to crave more cocaine. Use can produce strong psychological and a limited degree of physiological addiction. By over stimulating the central nervous system and producing an artificial euphoria, the drug causes a broad range of Rohypnol has no taste or odor and can easily be slipped into an individual’s drink. When used in combination with alcohol, it can cause severe problems with memory and judgment. Feelings of intense sleepiness, black outs and impaired motor skills can make a person unable to resist a sexual assault. You can protect yourself by not leaving your drink unattended, by closely watching the person who pours your drink, by not accepting an open drink from a stranger, and by not drinking out of “community” punch bowls or tubs of alcohol.

Amphetamines (speed, uppers, bennies)*

Amphetamines are classified as a stimulant and are taken in tablet or pill form. They lead to an increase in heart rate, blood pressure and temperature and can cause visual and auditory hallucinations. Users can become addicted, and over the long term, use of amphetamines can result in paranoid psychosis.

Methamphetamine (Crystal meth, crank, glass, ice)*

Crystal meth is an addictive stimulant that can be injected, snorted, smoked or swallowed. In the short term, use can lead to an increased activity level, a “rush” or feeling of well-being or a “high.” Tolerance (needing more and more of the drug to have the same effect) to the drug can build quickly. Long term users can experience depression, anxiety, paranoia, aggression, insomnia, hallucinations (e.g., “bugs crawling under the skin”), and sometimes suicidal or homicidal thoughts.

Ritalin*

You may hear about students buying Ritalin or other drugs from individuals who were prescribed them. Using someone else’s prescription drugs is dangerous and

illegal. Ritalin is increasingly being abused among individuals who do not have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). By crushing the pills into a powder and snorting, users may experience a cocaine-like high. However, long term abuse can result in paranoia, anxiety, irregular heartbeat, headaches and hallucinations.

Ecstasy (MDMA)*

Ecstasy is a stimulant. Users will experience an increase in body temperature, which may cause them to become dangerously overheated or dehydrated (especially after dancing for an hour at a party or in a club). In fact, these are the most common reasons why ecstasy users end up in the emergency room. In high doses, use may lead to muscle breakdown and kidney and heart failure. Ecstasy interferes with certain chemicals in the brain which regulate mood. As a result, regular users may develop depression, anxiety, sleep problems and paranoia. These symptoms may show up weeks or months after using ecstasy. Further, long term users may experience memory problems, lack of coordination and tremors, blurred vision, rapid eye movement, faintness and nausea.

Rohypnol (the “date rape drug”, roofies, mind erasers)*

Rohypnol has no taste or odor and can easily be slipped into an individual’s drink. When used in combination with alcohol, it can cause severe problems with memory and judgment. **Feelings of intense sleepiness, black outs and impaired motor skills can make a person unable to resist a sexual assault.** You can protect yourself by not leaving your drink unattended, by closely watching the person who pours your drink, by not accepting an open drink from a stranger, and by not drinking out of “community” punch bowls or tubs of alcohol.

Steroids (juice, rhoids)*

Steroids are a manufactured testosterone-like drug. In the short-term, steroids may increase muscle mass, strength and endurance. However, use can also lead to liver tumors, jaundice, and high blood pressure. Long-term effects include hypertension, high cholesterol, stunted growth and heart damage. Women may experience an irreversible deepening of the voice. Men may experience shrinking of the testicles and impotence.

Opiates (including Oxycontin, codeine, morphine)*

Opiates are usually prescribed for pain relief. When they are not used properly, serious health risks can occur. Abusers may quickly develop a tolerance, which leads directly to addiction. Respiratory depression, changes in mood, vomiting, and damage to the endocrine and autonomic nervous systems can result. If opiates in pill form are crushed and ingested, the drug may enter the blood stream too quickly, leading to overdose. **In addition, opiates have a high potential to interact with**

alcohol and other drugs, possibly causing coma or death.

**Information partially adapted from “The Drug Deal” brochure by Facts on Tap, published by American Council for Drug Education, 2001.*

REDUCING YOUR RISKS:

Alcohol

Impairment in any situation can lead to poor judgment. If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages or if you are with people who do, making low-risk, healthy choices can lower your risks of encountering serious problems, such as accidents, injuries, property damage, legal action, broken relationships and more. **Alcohol is involved in over 50% of motor vehicle accidents and fatalities. The greatest cause of death for persons aged 16 to 24 is alcohol and drug related accidents. Did you know that about 1,400 college students die each year due to alcohol-related incidents? Remember that choosing not to drink is always acceptable. One in two college students don’t drink at all.**

If you do choose to drink:

- * Resist attempts by others to pressure you into drinking alcoholic beverages or drinking more than you want to drink. Carry an alcohol-free beverage if it helps.
- * Do not take any medications with acetaminophen - this can cause serious liver damage.
- * Put some food in your system. Having something to eat while you are drinking slows down the absorption of alcohol. Eat less fatty foods - fat doesn’t absorb alcohol. Remember, carbonated beverages speed up the absorption of alcohol - so you are affected faster. Use uncarbonated beverages or juices as mixers. Alternate alcohol-free beverages with alcoholic drinks.
- * Don’t binge drink. A “binge” is a pattern of drinking alcohol that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 gram-percent or above. For a typical adult, this pattern corresponds to consuming 5 or more drinks (male), or 4 or more drinks (female) in about 2 hours.
- * Drink in moderation if you choose to drink. Set personal limits on how much you will drink during a night out or at a party, and stick to them. Pace yourself at no more than one drink per hour and do not drink more than 3 drinks in one day. Remember that “one drink” is equal to approximately one 12 ounce beer, a 4 ounce glass of wine, or 1 ounce of 80 proof liquor. Eighty-five percent of USC Aiken students consume 3 or fewer drinks per week or don’t drink at all. (from Fall 2008 CORE Survey of USC Aiken Students).
- * Be the designated driver. Plan to ride with someone else or find a place to stay if you do choose to drink alcohol. Do not ride with someone who is under the influence. Do not let friends who are impaired from the use of alcohol (or drugs) drive.
- * Body size is an important factor in considering the effects of alcohol on individuals. Alcohol has a greater effect on persons of lower body weight. Don’t

try to keep up with people who are larger than you. Women are typically affected by alcohol more quickly than men.

- * Watch your drink at all times. Date rape drugs, some of which are odorless, colorless, and tasteless, can be easily slipped into unattended drinks.

- * If you are under the age of 21, be aware of drinking age laws. In South Carolina, you must be 21 to legally consume alcoholic beverages, except as a part of a religious ceremony. Consider your relationship with the legal system and be aware of the penalties for underage possession and for the use of false ID cards.

- * Be aware that stress can influence the effects of alcohol. Abstain or reduce your personal limit during an emotional time.

- * Avoid drinking games. Many promote high risk drinking behavior.

- * Stop drinking alcoholic beverages 45 minutes to one hour before the end of an event.

- * Be careful during the heat! Consuming alcohol when you are exposed to heat for an extended amount of time can be risky. The use of alcohol combined with high temperatures can place you at higher risk of having a heat stroke.

- * Avoid drinking alcohol when using other drugs - even cold medicines. The effects can be greatly increased, even dangerous. For example, the use of marijuana suppresses the gag reflex. Your body may not “expel” an excess of alcohol, preventing an alcohol overdose. Some drugs combined with alcohol can also result in overdose because the synergistic effect is much greater than the sum of the two.

- * Remember that the effects of alcohol are greater if you are tired or run down.

- * For women ... remember that alcohol affects women more than men. Consider size, fat to lean ratios and hormonal cycles which can influence the effects of alcohol on your body. Avoid drinking during pregnancy, and be careful if you are nursing a baby.

- * Look at your family history, an important part of understanding the role of alcohol in your life. Children of alcoholics are four times more likely to become alcoholic than the general population. If one or both of your parents or grandparents have or had a chemical addiction, you are at a greatly increased risk of addiction.

- * Plan wisely when hosting social events. If alcohol is served at all, plan it as an addition to social activities rather than as the primary focus of the event. Never advertise alcohol as the focus. Limit amounts and restrict access for underage persons. Plan for alternative ways home. Learn the facts about good planning and legal liability.

- * If you are ever concerned about the medical safety of another person, call for medical assistance. Never place an intoxicated person laying face up or face down. Always place the person on his or her side and monitor breathing.

(Sources: South Carolina Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism, Prevention Research Institute, Inc. and the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol Information.)

STOP ALCOHOL POISONING

Symptoms of Alcohol Poisoning

1. Person is unconscious or semi-conscious and cannot be awakened.
2. Cold, clammy, pale or bluish skin.
3. Check to see if breathing is slow, less than eight times per minute, or irregular, with ten seconds or more between breaths.
4. Vomiting while “sleeping” or passed out, and not waking up after vomiting. If a person has any of these symptoms; he or she is suffering from acute alcohol intoxication.

1. Get help. Call someone, a staff member, an ambulance, University Police or local enforcement agency, someone who can help.
2. Do not leave the person alone. Turn the victim on his/her side to prevent choking in case of vomiting.
3. Always be “better safe than sorry” if you are not sure what to do. How can your friend be angry about you caring for him or her?

*Information gathered from Bacchus and Gamma Peer Educators Network, Inc.

INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAWS

The University of South Carolina Aiken does not permit possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 and supports all state alcoholic beverage laws.

INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA DRUG LAWS

The University of South Carolina Aiken prohibits possession, use, manufacturing and distribution of illegal drugs and supports all applicable state laws.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG RESOURCES

USC Aiken Counseling Center - The Center offers free individual, family and group counseling in a confidential environment. USC Aiken students can access services by visiting the Counseling Center in Suite 126 of the Business and Education Building or by calling 649-3609. **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** - A 12-step program for those who have a desire to stop drinking. Regular meetings are held in various locations in the community; call 648-1509 for schedule and locations.

Al-Anon/Alateen – 12-step programs for families and friends of addicted individuals. Regular meetings are held in various locations in the community; call 648-1509 for schedule and locations.

USC Aiken University Police – For assistance with information, emergencies, safety and law enforcement on the Aiken campus, call 6111 from a campus telephone or 648-4011 from an off-campus telephone.

USCA Employee Assistance Program (EAP) – A resource for faculty and staff of the university. Contact the Human Resources Department by visiting Penland 116 or calling 641-3317.

*See below for comprehensive listing of area resources.

DIRECTORY OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS IN AIKEN COUNTY AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES

Aiken

The Aiken Center
1105 Gregg Highway
Aiken, SC 29801
(803) 649-1900
<http://www.aikencenter.org>

Aurora Pavilion Behavioral Health Services

(Aiken Regional Medical Centers)
655 Medical Park Drive
Aiken, SC 29801
(803) 641-5900 or (800) 273-7911

Allendale

New Life Center
570 Memorial Avenue
Allendale, SC 29810
(803) 584-4238
<http://www.daodas.state.sc.us>

Bamberg

The Dawn Center
608 North Main Street
Bamberg, SC 29003
(803) 245-4360
<http://www.daodas.state.sc.us>

Barnwell

Axis I Center of Barnwell
1644 Jackson Street
Barnwell, SC 29812
(803) 541-1245
24-hour Hotline (803) 259-3333
<http://www.axis1.org/>

Edgefield

Cornerstone
603 Augusta Road
Edgefield, SC 29824
(803) 637-9336
www.cornerstonecares.org

Hampton

New Life Center
102 Cinn Altman Avenue
Suite C
Hampton, SC 29924
(803) 943-2800
<http://www.daodas.state.sc.us>

Lexington

LRADAC
1068 South Lake Drive
Lexington, SC 29073
(803) 726-9400
<http://www.lradac.org/>

McCormick

Cornerstone
504 North Mine Street
McCormick, SC 29835
(864) 852-3306
www.cornerstonecares.org

Orangeburg

The Dawn Center 910
Cook Road
Orangeburg, SC 29118
(803) 536-4900
www.mccordcenter.com

Richland

LRADAC
2711 Colonial Drive
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 73726-9300

<http://www.lradac.org/>

Saluda

Saluda Behavioral Health System
204 Ramage Street
Saluda, SC 29138
(864) 445-2968
www.saludabhs.com

RACIAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the University of South Carolina Aiken to conduct and provide programs, activities and services to students, faculty and staff in an atmosphere free from racial harassment. Racial harassment is any behavior that would verbally or physically threaten, torment, badger, heckle or persecute an individual because of his/her race.

Racial harassment of University faculty, staff, students or visitors is prohibited and shall subject the offender to appropriate disciplinary action.

This administration has an open door policy for any student who feels he or she has been subjected to racial harassment or discrimination. Students are urged to contact the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services, Student Activities Center, in the event that you have a grievance. USCA employees can seek advice from the Director of Human Resources in the Penland Building.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the University of South Carolina Aiken, in order to maintain an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the institutional system are respected, that sexual harassment of employees or students is prohibited. Such conduct is a form of behavior which seriously undermines the atmosphere of trust essential to the academic environment. This policy is consistent with federal and state laws prohibiting sex discrimination. It is also a policy of the University that willful false accusation of sexual harassment shall not be condoned. The full text of the policy is located in the Office of Human Resources or can be found at www.sc.edu/policies/eop102.html.

SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the University of South Carolina Aiken, in order to maintain an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the institutional system are respected, that sexual harassment of employees or students is

prohibited. Such conduct is a form of behavior which seriously undermines the atmosphere of trust essential to the academic environment. This policy is consistent with federal and state laws prohibiting sex discrimination. It is also a policy of the University that willful false accusation of sexual harassment shall not be condoned.

Rationale

The University of South Carolina Aiken is an educational institution bound by common standards of conduct and a commitment to its educational mission. Sexual assault is considered particularly abhorrent because it interferes with our educational mission:

- by endangering the physical and emotional safety;
- by damaging trust;
- by offending the dignity and violating autonomy;
- by disrupting the academic progress of victims during their recovery

The purpose of this policy statement is to describe the University's efforts to provide:

- resources aimed at reducing the risk of sexual assault, including educational programs for men and women;
- a statement of expectations for behavior with regard to sexual conduct;• procedural interventions to offer support and information following a sexual assault; and
- campus judicial procedures that provide for the needs of victims and protect the rights of alleged assailants.

Statistically, members of college communities are at great risk of being assaulted or exploited sexually and most probably by someone known to or trusted by the victim. Studies have shown that sexual assaults occur with disturbing frequency among college age men and women but are very often unreported. In order to provide for the needs and care of victims, as well as to enforce the behavior standards critical to our mission, it is important that all violations of this policy are reported to appropriate authorities, including the law enforcement officials or agencies with jurisdiction in the location of the incident. Portions of this policy may parallel published laws, but are in no way intended to substitute or supplant those laws. USC Aiken students are expected to comply with and abide by University policies and the laws of the State of South Carolina.

Because research has shown that alcohol and other drug use is typically associated with sexual assault, especially date and acquaintance rape, it is important to be aware of and manage health and safety risks while complying with all University policies and state and federal laws related to alcohol and drug use. The use of these substances, in conjunction with an incident of sexual assault, does not mitigate responsibility or diminish the seriousness of the crime. This policy is subject to change to comply with changes in relevant laws or University operating procedures

or regulations.

Victim's Bill of Rights

Victims of sexual assault who report their experience to University officials can anticipate that:

1. All sexual assaults will be treated seriously.
2. Victims will be treated with dignity and respect and in a non-judgmental manner.
3. Campus organizations and services which can assist victims will be identified.
4. When a crime is reported to University officials, those officials will offer assistance in notifying proper authorities.
5. When victims report and choose to pursue action against alleged assailants, assaults will be investigated and adjudicated by appropriate criminal and/or University officials.
6. University personnel will not discourage victims from reporting, nor encourage them to under-report the incident as a lesser crime.
7. Victims may invite an advisor they choose to accompany them through University disciplinary proceedings.
8. A victim will be notified of the outcome of related University discipline proceedings and has the rights to appeal the outcome. The victim and charged student must respect the privacy rights of all involved.
9. University personnel will cooperate in obtaining, securing and maintaining evidence (including a medical examination) necessary in legal proceedings.
10. Victims will be made aware of any state or federal laws regarding mandatory testing of sexual assault suspects for communicable disease and whether these professionals can notify a victim of the results of these tests.
11. Victims will be informed of mental health services available.
12. Victims will be afforded the opportunity to request immediate on-campus housing relocation, transfer of classes, or other steps to prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity to an alleged assailant when reasonably available.
13. All students have the right to an environment free from sexual or physical intimidation, or any continuing disruptive behavior, by persons sharing rooms or their guests, that would prevent a reasonable person from attaining their educational goals. Disruptive behavior of this nature should be reported to appropriate University staff, so it can be addressed.
14. The sexual history of the victim is not considered relevant to the truth of the allegation; therefore, information regarding sexual history external to the relationship between the victim and the alleged assailant will not be considered in discipline hearings.

University Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy and related procedures, the term sexual assault is defined as "unwilling or unconsenting sexual intercourse or penetration of any bodily opening with any object; the touching of an unwilling person's intimate parts (such as genitalia, groin, breast, buttocks, mouth, and/ or clothing covering them); touching an unwilling person with one's own intimate parts; or forcing an

unwilling person to touch another's intimate parts.”

Behavior contemplated in this definition includes acts that are unwanted and/or may be committed either by force, threat, intimidation, or deceit, or through exploitation of another's mental or physical condition of which the assailant was aware or should have been aware.

USC Aiken student conduct regulations incorporate this definition by obliging students to comply with all published policies and procedures of the University (see USC Aiken Student Handbook). Behaviors prohibited by this policy may also be prohibited by the general student conduct regulations obliging students to comply with all published state, local and federal (see “Compliance with General Laws” under “Student Discipline System” in the USC Aiken Student Handbook).

Such behaviors may also be simultaneously covered by the general regulations prohibiting “disruptive activity” and “disorderly conduct”. Attempting, abetting or being an accessory to any prohibited act is considered the same as a completed violation.

Criminal Definition:

By publishing this policy, USC Aiken does not intend to substitute or supersede related civil and criminal law. It is the policy of this institution to strongly encourage victims to report all incidents and violations to the law enforcement agencies or officials with appropriate jurisdiction and to avail themselves of all the services and rights to which they are entitled by law.

It should be clearly understood that there is a fundamental difference between the nature and purpose of student discipline and criminal law. Regardless of the charge(s) issued or procedures employed, sanctions issued by the University can be expected to be consistent with the educational mission of the institution.

According to USC Aiken's Student Handbook, Student Discipline section, students who are apprehended and charged by law enforcement agencies with felony criminal charges off campus are required to inform University officials. The University may bring disciplinary action against the student for the same incident if the alleged conduct is prohibited by the institution and/or if it is judged to be adverse to the recognized mission of the institution. University disciplinary procedures should be considered distinct and independent of any and all criminal procedures. Discipline procedures may precede, occur simultaneously, or follow and consider the results of any relevant court action. When necessary, temporary action may be taken in the form of summary suspension, summary restrictions or officially requesting no contact between the victim and accused assailant. Any of these measures may result in a student's restricted participation in University events outside attendance of classes and appointments related to the resolution of discipline

matters.

The South Carolina State Code of Laws (SC Code Ann. Sec. 16-3-651 to 16-3-656) defines criminal sexual conduct, including rape, with the respective penalties as follows:

Sec. 16-3-651. Definitions used in sections 16-3-651 to 16-3-659.1.

For the purposes of sections 16-3-651 to 16-3-659.1:

- (a) “Actor” means a person accused of criminal sexual conduct.
- (b) “Aggravated coercion” means that the actor threatens to use force or violence of a high and aggravated nature to overcome the victim or another person, if the victim reasonably believes that the actor has the present ability to carry out the threat, or threatens to retaliate in the future by the infliction of physical harm, kidnapping or extortion, under circumstances of aggravation, against the victim or any other person.
- (c) “Aggravated force” means that the actor uses physical force or physical violence of a high and aggravated nature to overcome the victim or includes the threat of the use of a deadly weapon.
- (d) “Intimate parts” includes the primary genital area, anus, groin, inner thighs, or buttocks of a male or female human being and the breasts of a female human being.
- (e) “Mentally defective” means that a person suffers from a mental disease or defect which renders the person temporarily or permanently incapable of appraising the nature of his or her conduct.
- (f) “Mentally incapacitated” means that a person is rendered temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling his or her conduct whether this condition is produced by illness, defect, the influence of a substance or from some other cause.
- (g) “Physically helpless” means that a person is unconscious, asleep, or for any other reason physically unable to communicate unwillingness to an act.
- (h) “Sexual battery” means sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any intrusion, however slight, of any part of a person’s body or of any object into the genital or anal openings of another person’s body, except when such intrusion is accomplished for medically recognized treatment or diagnostic purposes.
- (i) “Victim” means the person alleging to have been subjected to criminal sexual conduct.

Sec. 16-3-652. Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree.

- (1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree if the actor engages in sexual battery with the victim and if any one or more of the following circumstances are proven:
 - (a) The actor uses aggravated force to accomplish sexual battery.
 - (b) The victim submits to sexual battery by the actor under circumstances where the victim is also the victim of forcible confinement, kidnapping, robbery, extortion, burglary, housebreaking, or any other similar offense or act.
- (2) Criminal sexual conduct in the first degree is a felony punishable by

imprisonment for not more than thirty years, according to the discretion of the court.

Sec. 16-3-653. Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree.

(1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the second degree if the actor uses aggravated coercion to accomplish sexual battery.

(2) Criminal sexual conduct in the second degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than twenty years according to the discretion of the court.

Sec. 16-3-654. Criminal sexual conduct in the third degree.

(1) A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree if the actor engages in sexual battery with the victim and if any one or more of the following circumstances are proven:

(a) The actor uses force or coercion to accomplish the sexual battery in the absence of aggravating circumstances.

(b) The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and aggravated force or aggravated coercion was not used to accomplish sexual battery.

(2) Criminal sexual conduct in the third degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than ten years, according to the discretion of the court.

Sec. 16-3-656. Assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct. Assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct described in the above sections shall be punishable as if the criminal sexual conduct was committed.

(NOTE: one charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct may not be considered for pretrial intervention. SC Code section 17-22-50)

PROCEDURES FOR VICTIM

A. Immediate Care and Treatment

Medical attention is crucial to assess possible internal injuries or sexually transmitted diseases, as well as to collect medical evidence should the victim choose to pursue prosecution. The police will be contacted by the hospital to take possession of the evidence collected while the victim makes a decision about whether to pursue charges. Any student who feels that he or she has been sexually assaulted and requires medical attention should immediately:

If an assault occurs on campus:

Contact University Police at 648-4011 (6111 from a campus phone extension); or Rape Crisis Center at 641-4162 (after hours and weekends at 648-9900). The sooner a sexual assault is reported, the easier it is to collect valuable evidence.

To facilitate evidence collection, the victim:

- Should not bathe or douche.
- Should not urinate.
- Should not drink any liquids.

- If oral contact has occurred, the victim should not smoke, eat or brush teeth.
- If clothes are changed, soiled clothes should be placed in a paper bag (plastic destroys crucial evidence).

University Police may transport the victim to Aiken Regional Medical Center for medical attention and a rape protocol exam. If the victim does not want to contact the police, a friend or relative may transport the student to the hospital. When the victim arrives at the emergency room, the hospital may call the Rape Crisis Center to arrange for a victim advocate to accompany the victim throughout the exam and any law enforcement procedures. The hospital staff may also contact University Police and/or the police where the incident occurred.

If an assault occurs off-campus:

A. Contact area police via 911 system (Aiken County) or if no 911 system is available, call your local police, or in Aiken call the Rape Crisis Center at 641- 4162 (after hours and weekends at 648-9900). The sooner a sexual assault is reported, the easier it is to collect valuable evidence. To facilitate evidence collection, the victim:

- Should not bathe or douche.
- Should not urinate.
- Should not drink any liquids.
- If oral contact has occurred, the victim should not smoke, eat or brush teeth.
- If clothes are changed, soiled clothes should be placed in a paper bag (plastic destroys crucial evidence).

The police department with jurisdiction in the area will most often direct the victim to an area hospital for medical attention and a rape protocol exam. If the victim does not want to contact police, a friend or relative may transport the student to the hospital. When the victim arrives at the emergency room, the hospital staff may call a Rape Crisis Center in that area and/or may contact the local police where the incident occurred. The hospital staff may also contact USC Aiken University Police.

If a victim chooses not to go to the hospital, the victim is strongly urged to seek appropriate medical attention.

B. Reporting

All victims of sexual assault/battery are encouraged to report the incident to law enforcement agencies. Should the victim choose not to immediately involve law enforcement officials, the victim is strongly urged to go through the rape protocol exam for medical attention and for the purpose of preserving important physical of the assault. This evidence may be used if the victim chooses to pursue legal prosecution at a later date. The rape protocol exam

should be completed as soon as possible. Physical evidence can be obtained up to 72 hours after the assault, recognizing that as time passes, the quality of the evidence diminishes. A student victim may also choose to file a report with the Judicial Hearing Officer or the Director of the Counseling Center. An explanation of this procedure can be obtained in the student handbook. The disciplinary procedures are also described in a separate section below and published in the student handbook.

Whether or not legal or disciplinary action is desired, an anonymous report may be filed, at any time, with the Director of the Counseling Center. This report provides USC Aiken staff with information about the crime that may be valuable in their efforts to prevent future crimes and educate other students about the high risk areas. The Director of the Counseling can be reached by calling 641-3609.

C. Discipline Policies and Procedures for Victim and/or Witness

Witnesses to or victims of the above described sexual misconduct may wish to contact the Judicial Hearing Officer if the accused is a USC Aiken student. In this event, the Judicial Hearing Officer will meet with the witness or victim to discuss the report and determine whether there is reason to believe a conduct code offense has occurred. At the same time, discipline procedures will be reviewed and the possible roles the witness or victim may play in the gathering of this information and/or the resolution of the complaint will be explored. At this meeting, if the victim or witness is willing and prepared, staff may conduct an investigative interview. At the victim's or witness's request, an advisor, counselor, attorney, parent, friend or the Director of the Counseling Center may attend. In this meeting, and as needed, the Associate Chancellor will answer questions and provide offended individuals with general information about civil and criminal options available to victims or witnesses.

When it is determined that there exists sufficient reason to believe a violation of University policy has occurred, disciplinary procedures may be initiated. It should be understood that victims and witnesses need not "press charges"; instead, the University is responsible for initiating this investigative process. Furthermore, the University is not required to await the outcome of any criminal action against the accused before initiating disciplinary action, if such is deemed necessary. Victims or witnesses can expect to be asked to contribute testimony and information to assist in the resolution of the complaint.

D. Follow-up and Recovery Services for Victim

Research has shown that follow-up counseling is of significant benefit to a victim of sexual assault and/or related trauma. This counseling may be initiated at any time after an assault (from hours to years). On or off campus

counseling and other services are available to a student victim whether or not the crime was reported or prosecuted.

The Rape Crisis Center (division of the [Cumbee Center](#) to Assist Abused Persons “CAAP”) is an off-campus resource that provides short-term counseling, as well as crisis intervention. Services are provided for all victims, no matter when the assault occurred. Their 24-hour hotline number is 641-4162. A representative from the Cumbee Center works in the USC Aiken Counseling Center at least one day each week and can be contacted at 641-3609.

The Counseling Center is an on-campus resource that provides free counseling to students. The phone number is 641-3609. They also assist a victim with filing a discipline complaint, notifying instructors of absences or other needs, and/or helping a student withdraw.

The Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services can assist a victim with filing a discipline complaint, notifying instructors of absences or other needs, and/or helping a student withdraw. The phone number is 641-3588.

PROCEDURES FOR ACCUSED PARTY

A. Discipline Policies and Procedures for Accused Party.

To begin discipline procedures, individuals thought to have relevant information or testimony, including the accused party, will be contacted and interviewed by appropriate University officials. If sufficient information is available to conclude there is reason to believe, or “reasonable grounds” to do so, the University will issue charges from the general student conduct regulations and will follow the judicial procedures for non-academic offenses as set forth in the USC Aiken Student Handbook.

A summary of this procedure follows:

- The accused party will be offered the opportunity to choose one of two possible hearing procedures. Note: Under certain circumstances outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, an administrative hearing is NOT an option. The Non-Academic Judicial Officer or Hearing Officer may decline to hear the case in this manner due to conflict of interest or severity of the case (felony arrest) and request a University Judicial Board Hearing be held.
- The accused party may choose a formal administrative hearing, in which the University’s Judicial Officer or designee is authorized to consider testimony and act as hearing officer, deciding whether the accused is responsible for the charge(s) as issued, and what the University response or sanction, if indicated, should be.
- The accused student may choose a hearing before the University Judicial Board (UJB), a group of faculty and students who are trained and authorized to conduct hearings to determine responsibility and appropriate sanctions. In each hearing procedure, the burden of proof shall be on the University

as the adjudicating party. Decisions regarding responsibility for charges shall be based on a “preponderance of evidence” standard, meaning responsibility does not have to be proven beyond a shadow of a doubt. The University need only demonstrate that the charged student is more likely than not responsible for the charge. In these investigative hearings, regardless of the procedure chosen, the hearing officer or UJB members will not be restricted from testimony by technical rules of evidence. Charged students are assured a right of access to a list of witnesses invited to testify, as well as an opportunity to review all available physical and documentary evidence to be presented at the hearing. In these informal, non- adversarial hearings, there is no formal cross examination. Charged students are, however, entitled to question and rebut any evidence presented. In order to conduct a fair, orderly hearing, special accommodations may be made in hearing procedures, such as indirect questioning, or special seating arrangements in the hearing room. Both the charged student and the victim may be accompanied by an advisor of their choice and remain present while all testimony is presented.

The advisor or counsel may, with written permission of the charged student:

- Advise the accused student about the preparation and presentation of the case;
- Accompany the charged student to all judicial proceedings;
- Have access to evidence, witness lists, documents and exhibits relating to the case.

Should the hearing authority determine a student is responsible for the charges issued; the student’s disciplinary record may be made available to the authority. The hearing authority will then adjourn again to determine what sanction(s) are appropriate to the circumstances and individual. Possible sanctions include permanent suspension, suspension for a period of time, suspension held in abeyance, disciplinary probation, conditions, reprimand, restitution, and educational sanction.

B. Follow-up Services for Accused Party

Follow-up counseling may be of significant benefit to an accused party. On or off campus counseling and other services are available to an accused party whether or not the crime was reported or prosecuted. The Counseling Center is an on-campus resource that provides free counseling to currently enrolled students. The phone number is 641-3609.

[The Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons \(CAAP\)](#) provides referrals to counseling services for men who commit sexual assault or abuse their partners. A representative from the Cumbee Center works in the USC Aiken Counseling Center several days each week and can be contacted at 641-3609.

The [South Carolina Bar Association](#), Lawyer Referral Service, can assist an accused party in finding an attorney to represent them in civil and/or criminal

proceedings. The phone number is 1-800-868-2284 or 799-7100.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING TO CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Federal law requires that timely notice of assaults be made to the campus community if it is felt that a threat to any other person(s) exists. In these cases, the Chief of University Police, in consultation with the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services, will notify the campus community through whatever means are appropriate for the particular case.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The following offices within the University of South Carolina Aiken and the Aiken community provide a variety of educational offerings related to sexual assault, personal safety, appropriate use of alcohol, healthy relationships, etc. For more information, the following offices should be contacted:

- USC Aiken Counseling Center, Business and Education Building, Room 126, 641-3609.
- University Police, 648-4011 (from off campus) or 6111 (from on- campus).
- Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons, Rape Crisis Center, 641-4162.
- Aiken Regional Medical Center, The Resource Center, 655 Medical Park Dr., Aiken, 641 -5926.
- Aiken-Barnwell Community Mental Health Ctr., 1135 Gregg Highway, Aiken, 641-7700.

HAZING POLICY

The University of South Carolina Aiken prohibits any form of hazing. No organization, registered or otherwise, officially or in fact, may participate in the activity of hazing. Hazing is defined as any action or situation created by individuals, clubs and organizations, on or off campus, that could cause or has the potential to result in harassment, emotional or physical abuse of harm, embarrassment, anxiety, ridicule, or the violation of an University rule, no matter how good the end result or intent.

Examples of hazing include but are not limited to:

- Tests of endurance
- Submission of members or prospective members to potentially dangerous or hazardous circumstances
- Paddling
- Forced indulgence of alcohol or food
- Forced excessive exercise
- Indecent stunts or dress
- Deprivation of sleep, normal sleep patterns or adequate study time
- Physical harassment such as pushing, shoving, tickling, yelling, etc.
- Deprivation of normal amounts of food and water
- Individual or group interrogations such as line-ups
- Personal servitude
- Assigning pranks

- Forced or coerced trips such as kidnaps, displacement, and “pledge” dumps

Registered organizations and groups shall be permitted certain initiation ceremonies and activities, which when examined by the ordinary University student, would seem reasonable under the circumstances and justified in view of the purpose for which they are conducted.

It shall not constitute a defense to the charge of hazing that the participants took part voluntarily, that they voluntarily assumed the risks or hardship of the activity, or that no injury in fact was suffered.

For information on the South Carolina Hazing Law, the USC Aiken Hazing Policy, or to initiate a complaint for alleged hazing, contact the Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Services.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF USC AIKEN COMPUTER AND NETWORK RESOURCES - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University recognizes its legal and social obligations to respect the privacy of the authorized users of its computing and network resources. However, users must recognize that the confidentiality of their electronic communications cannot be guaranteed by the University. Moreover, the University reserves the right to audit or monitor any uses of its computing and network resources when necessary to ensure compliance with University policy, and with federal, state and local law. The University network provides its authorized users with access to many classes of privileged information. Users must maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the information they access, and must not use privileged information for any purpose not explicitly authorized.

The University’s computing and network resources exist to support the University’s missions of teaching, research, administration and public service. Incidental personal use of these resources by authorized users is permitted only to the extent that such use is lawful and ethical, does not conflict with the University’s missions, does not interfere with other authorized users, and does not cause additional expense to the University.

The State of South Carolina Budget and Control Board, Acceptable Use Policy for Network Services and the Internet, dated December 1, 1995 also applies to our network resources and specifically states that: “Use of network services provided by the State of South Carolina may be subject to monitoring for security and/or network management reasons. Users of these services are therefore advised of this potential monitoring and agree to this practice.”

I. Scope

This policy applies to all users of USC Aiken computer and/or network resources to include all users who access any of the computer systems or computer network controlled by USC Aiken. This policy is not limited to USC Aiken employees/students only but also applies to any person or entity accessing or using USC Aiken systems.

II. Introduction

The policy statements which follow serve primarily to aid in the interpretation of, and in a few cases to augment, the University's general policies on the appropriate use of University facilities, and the University's general ethics policies for faculty, students, and staff.

III. Privacy and Confidentiality

In general, information stored on computers and the content of electronic communications are considered confidential, unless the owner or sender intentionally makes that information available to other groups or individuals. In particular, personal files on the University's computers (for example, files stored in a user's home directory, or on a personal computer) should be considered private to the same degree as personal files in University assigned space in an office, lab or desk area. Private communications via computer (for example, through electronic mail) have the same privacy protection as private communications via telephone.

Nonetheless, one should exercise caution when committing sensitive information to storage or transmission on any electronic media, because the confidentiality of electronic media cannot be guaranteed. Confidential or sensitive information should not be sent through e-mail or exposed to public networks such as the Internet unless adequately secured against unauthorized access.

Routine maintenance can result in the contents of files and messages being seen by system or network administrators. However, network and system administrators are expected to treat the contents of electronic files and communications as private and confidential. Any inspection of electronic files or messages, and any action based upon such inspection, will be governed by all applicable U.S. and SC laws and by this and other relevant University policies. Note also that under the Freedom of Information Act, the files of University employees (paper or electronic) may be considered public documents, and may be subject to inspection under the FOIA, through formal University-administered procedures. The content of electronic files and communications may also be subject to subpoena in other legal proceedings.

Moreover, the University reserves the right to monitor user activities on all University computer systems, and to monitor communications utilizing the University network, to ensure compliance with University policy, and with federal, state and local law. Monitoring shall be performed only by individuals who are

specifically authorized, and only the minimum data necessary to meet institutional requirements shall be collected. Data collected through monitoring shall be made accessible only to authorized individuals, who are responsible for maintaining its confidentiality.

The following notice is understood to apply to all University- owned computer systems, and to all communications utilizing the University network and must be acknowledged in writing prior to issuance of an USC Aiken computer account:

“This system is for the use of authorized users only. Individuals using this computer system without authority or in excess of their authority are subject to having all their activities on this system monitored and recorded by system personnel. In the course of monitoring individuals improperly using this system, or in the course of system maintenance, the activities of authorized users may also be monitored. Anyone using this system expressly consents to such monitoring, and is advised that if such monitoring reveals possible evidence of illegal activity or violation of University regulations, system personnel may provide the evidence of such monitoring to University authorities and/or law enforcement officials.”

IV. Property Rights

The ownership of the contents of electronic files and messages is a function of applicable US laws, State laws, and University and departmental policies. University contracts with third parties (for example, software license contracts and research and sponsored program contracts) may also apply.

The University’s Patents and Copyright Policy (see the USC Aiken Faculty Manual, 4.3-5 – 4.3-16), applies to all Inventions and Copyrightable Works produced by employees, including such works as may be embodied in electronic files.

V. Academic Freedom

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions not only in the classroom, but on the campus as a whole. The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community — faculty, staff, and students. System and network administrators are expected to respect the University’s academic freedom policies.

No personal file stored on a University computer system should be removed by a system administrator without the file owner’s permission unless the file’s presence

interferes with the operation of the system or under direction of appropriate legal authorities.

No posting to a University-sponsored electronic forum should be removed by a system administrator unless it violates U.S. law, state law or University policy. The following principles apply to University-supported electronic forums which support the free exchange of ideas among faculty and students:

The same standards of intellectual and academic freedom developed for faculty and student publication in traditional media apply to publication on electronic forums. Note that there are electronic forums and other materials on the Internet and elsewhere that some members of the University community may find offensive. The University cannot restrict the availability of such material, but the display of offensive material in any publicly accessible area, including but not limited to publicly accessible computer screens and printers, may violate other University policies on unacceptable behavior (for example, harassment or discrimination). Similarly, any use of University computing or network facilities to post offensive materials to electronic forums on the Internet and elsewhere may violate these University policies.

The authors of all postings submitted to electronic forums for distribution outside the University should include a disclaimer stating that the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the University (as an example, "The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official statements or views of the University of South Carolina Aiken").

VI. Responsibilities of Users

All faculty, staff, and students who use University supported computer and network systems share in the responsibility for upholding the rights of their fellow users. Meeting this responsibility requires adherence to certain rules, outlined below, which apply to all University systems.

A. Appropriate and reasonable use:

- Computer and network access account should be used only for authorized purposes. Personal use of university computing and network resources is restricted by state law. Section 8-13-700(A) of the South Carolina Ethics Code reads as follows:
- No public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. This prohibition does not extend to the incidental use of public materials, personnel, or equipment, subject to or available for a public official's, public members, or public employee's use which does not result in additional public expense.
- Viewing of pornography is forbidden. Viewing of child pornography is illegal and is subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities. If legitimate research projects require the viewing or storage of this type of material,

approval from the Chancellor must be obtained beforehand.

- Users should refrain from inappropriate activities such as use of email to distribute off-color jokes, or interfering with other users (for example, consuming gratuitously large amounts of limited system resources such as disk space, CPU time, network bandwidth, or printer supplies).

B. Privacy and Confidentiality:

- Accounts on University computer systems, and connections to the University network, provide access to many classes of privileged information. Users must maintain the confidentiality of any privileged information they access, and must not use any privileged information for any purpose for which they are not explicitly authorized.
- Accessing another user's files without permission is prohibited.
- Accessing any information on a University information system without authorization is prohibited.
- Disruption or unauthorized monitoring or interception of electronic communications is prohibited.
- These prohibitions apply even in circumstances where the files, information, or messages are not adequately protected against unauthorized access. Any user who discovers a possible "security hole" on a USC Aiken system is obliged to report it to the system administrator.

C. Accountability:

- Misrepresenting or willfully concealing your identity at any point on the USC Aiken network is prohibited.

D. Security:

- The users of all systems must maintain adequate passwords on their accounts. Passwords must be kept in strictest confidence, and may not be shared with others without the permission of the system administrator. If a user must temporarily share his or her password with a trusted system administrator (for example, to troubleshoot a problem), then the user should change the password as soon as possible afterwards. Note that passwords should never be shared with [anyone claiming to be] a system administrator without positive identification.
- The users of all systems must comply with a system administrator's request to change passwords. Whenever possible users should choose their own passwords.
- The users of all systems are responsible for understanding the system's default levels of protection applied to files and messages, and for supplementing that protection if necessary for sensitive information.
- Any computer system which is connected to the University network must be

maintained in accordance with generally accepted security principles. For example, virus protection software must be installed and kept current, and any known security problems with the software installed on the system must be addressed.

- All facilities for incoming remote access to computer systems and communication servers which are directly or indirectly connected to the University's campus wide data communications network must provide adequate protection of other networked systems against unauthorized access. An audit trail of all remote access activity must be maintained by any facility which provides remote dial-in access, and audit trail records must be accessible by authorized University officials.

E. Copyright and Intellectual Property:

- Copyrighted material and software must be used with respect for the legal rights of its copyright holder(s).
- It is the user's responsibility to recognize, attribute, and honor the intellectual property present on or accessible through University computer and communication systems.

F. Licensed (Commercial) Software:

- The user is responsible for understanding and adhering to the licensing terms for all licensed software which he or she knowingly uses.
- The making of unauthorized copies of licensed software, even when the software is not protected against copying, is prohibited.

In addition to the above general rules, there may be more specific rules which apply to many individual University systems. It is the user's responsibility to ascertain and follow these system-specific rules.

VII. Sanctions:

Violators of the provisions of this policy by faculty, students, and staff are subject to applicable USC Aiken disciplinary policies. Violations of public law which involve University computer and communication systems may be subject to prosecution by local, state or federal authorities. University faculty, students, or staff who knowingly violate copyright and/or license terms (for example, by making or using an unauthorized copy of a copyrighted or licensed software product) may be personally liable for their actions.

COMPUTER ROOM RULES

1. No food or drinks are allowed in any computer lab.
2. Only currently enrolled USC Aiken students are allowed in any computer room after hours. No spouses, children, parents, boyfriends, girlfriends, or friends are allowed in the computer rooms after hours unless they are a currently enrolled student. Exceptions to this policy may be granted only

by the Director of Computer Services. (Number 510 - USC Aiken Policies and Procedures)

3. Print one copy only even if you are supplying your own paper. Use copiers in the B&E Building, Library and Bookstore to make multiple copies.
4. Respect others.
5. Keep the noise level down. Control computer generated sound (head phones are available from student assistants).
6. If you encounter offensive behavior in the student computer areas, notify the student assistant or a CSD staff member. After hours, notify University Police (Ext. 6111).
7. Comply with copyright laws.
8. Copying software is usually illegal.
9. Copying images is usually illegal.
10. Supply your own paper after hours.
11. Course work has precedence.
12. Cruise the Internet on your own.
13. Use only software loaded on the computers. Installing any software on the computers is prohibited. Making any modification to the computers, their operating system, or their software is prohibited.
14. Please clean up any mess you make.

SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF COMPUTER FACILITIES POLICY

Infractions of computer room rules will be recorded and a warning issued by the Computer Services Division (CSD) staff. A second infraction will result in the loss of after-hours access privileges. A third infraction will result in a referral to the USC Aiken Student Judicial System. Serious infractions, including but not limited to such acts as deliberate damage to equipment, malicious attempt to alter other people's documents, and deliberate introduction of a virus, may result in immediate loss of after-hours privileges as well as action through the USC Aiken Student Judicial System. Repeated violations of less serious infractions would also be construed as serious. The USC Aiken Chief Information Officer or his/her designee is responsible for monitoring and administering this policy.

STUDENT EMAIL POLICY

Electronic mail or "email" is considered an official method for communication to students at the University of South Carolina Aiken because it delivers information in a convenient, timely, and cost effective manner.

To assure all students access to this important form of communication, USC Aiken provides a University email account to each enrolled student. The primary purpose of these accounts is to ensure a standardized channel for faculty and staff to communicate with students of the University as needed. Official university communications sent to all students will include reminders of important dates such as deadlines to pay tuition and fees, to withdraw from a course with grade of "W," to apply for graduation, etc... Students are responsible for reading, in a timely

fashion, University related communications sent to their official student email accounts.

Assignment of Student Email:

The official University email accounts are created and maintained by the [Computer Services Division](#) (CSD) and are activated upon a student's acceptance to the University. Additional assistance is available at the CSD "helpdesk" located in the Business and Education Building, room 238. Official email addresses will be published as directory information unless students request otherwise.

Redirecting of Email:

Students who redirect (auto forward) messages sent to their official USC Aiken student email address to another address (such as AOL, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc...) do so at their own risk. Having email lost as a result of redirection does not absolve the student from responsibilities associated with communication sent to his/her official USC Aiken email address. The University is not responsible for the handling of email by outside vendors or unofficial servers. The USC Aiken assigned email address will be the address used by USC Aiken staff/faculty to communicate to students.

Expectations of Student Use of Email:

Students are expected to read and respond as appropriate to their USC Aiken official email on a frequent and consistent basis. The University recommends checking email daily.

Faculty Expectations and Educational Uses of Email and Class Listservs:

Since faculty members determine how email is used in their classes, faculty may require students to check their email on a specific basis. Faculty may also require students to confirm their subscription to University provided class listservs. For example, messages sent to University-provided class listservs (those established by the faculty member) are considered official communications for all students enrolled in the class designated by the class listserv address. USC Aiken CSD will not provide support service for personal email accounts such as AOL, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc., in conjunction with university listservs.

Appropriate Use of Student Email:

All use of email will be consistent with other University policies, including the "Acceptable Use of USC Aiken Computer and Network Resources Policy", [Computer Services Help Desk](#) (USC Aiken Policy #502).

Procedures:

The Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and the Campus Technology Committee will review this policy as needed. Students with questions about the policy should contact the Computer Services Division. Portions of this policy are drawn from those developed by the University of Arizona, University of

Colorado at Boulder, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Winthrop University.

UNIVERSITY AIDS POLICY

The University of South Carolina Aiken recognizes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) as a national health concern that impacts all segments of society including students. Current information provided by the Centers for Disease Control indicates that the HIV (Human Immune Deficiency Virus) is not transmitted by casual contact; therefore, University rules and regulations pertaining to student life and admission to the University shall not discriminate against students who have or may not have been exposed to the HIV.

A student seeking professional help shall be offered assistance in a manner consistent with the professional ethics of the discipline offering the assistance. If administrative or medical decisions need to be made with respect to an individual student with HIV infections or AIDS, the decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by appropriate University personnel. Confidentiality will be maintained with each case.

The American College Health Association has recommended that colleges provide their students with information concerning AIDS since AIDS education can help students understand how to prevent the spread of the HIV. The University of South Carolina Aiken encourages its departments and administrative areas to provide students with information where it can be done in a manner consistent with the mission of the department or administrative area.

The publications of the American College Health Association, the Center for Disease Control, the United States Public Health Service, and the Department of Health and Environmental Control shall be considered official reference sources for use by USC Aiken professional staff in providing students with general AIDS information. These sources shall also be used as primary reference sources when responding to general inquiries or addressing situations on the USC Aiken campus. This policy reflects current information concerning AIDS and HIV. It will be revised and is subject to change as research provides more information on diagnosis, treatments and transmission.

For the full University AIDS/HIV Policy refer to the USC Policy STAF 1.03 available on-line at <http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf/staf103.html>.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

All students born after December 31, 1956 must furnish proof of receiving two doses of measles (rubeola), mumps and rubella (German measles), known as the MMR vaccine on or after their 1st birthday prior to registration. Proof of Immunity requests documentation of one of the following:

1. Receiving two MMR vaccines (shots) after January 1, 1968 and on or after 1st birthday (Initial vaccination acceptable no earlier than 4 days before the first birthday), OR
2. Positive serum titers (blood antibodies) to measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). Positive serum titers must have been performed within the last 5 years and a copy of the lab results sent to confirm results.

International Students additional requirement:

International Students should have a tuberculosis screening if they are not from the following countries:

Canada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, USA Virgin Islands (USA), Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, American Samoa, Australia or New Zealand.

Housing Students additional requirement:

Students living in University housing must receive a vaccination for meningitis or sign a waiver indicating that they understand the risks of failing to do so.

MEAL PLAN POLICY

USC Aiken requires that all University housing residents participate in one of the meal plans available. We strongly encourage all incoming students, regardless of place of residence, to participate in one of the plans. As part of their housing information, all University housing residents will be provided with a list of the meal plan options available to them in meeting the mandatory requirement.

If a parent, legal guardian or student (if legally independent) does not want the student to participate in the plan they may appeal to be released from the meal plan. The appeal shall be in writing to the Director of Campus Support Services and clearly state the reason(s) with appropriate justification or documentation for the requested release. Appeals will be accepted through the end of the second week of classes in each major semester. The appeal may be based upon but not limited to the following situations: financial hardship, dietary restrictions, meals provided by an employer or work schedule. Should the appeal be approved, a pro- rated refund will be granted effective with the date of the original appeal.

The appeal shall be acted upon and a written response forwarded to the appellant with copies to the appropriate USC Aiken departments. Should the appellant not agree with the ruling, they may petition the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration for review and a final determination. Petitions shall be made within ten working days of the receipt of the written response by the Director of Campus Support Services.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students are required to obtain a parking permit which must be displayed on their automobile. A twenty-five dollar per semester parking and safety fee will be included in their tuition and fees statement. Parking on campus without a permit will result in a ticket and subsequent fine. Fines must be paid in the Finance Office located in the Penland building. There are four parking lots on campus which students can use. Parking lots "A" and "B" are located in the front of campus and parking lots "C" and "D" are located on either side of the Etherredge Center. Students may park in any of the spaces marked with white lines. The yellow marked spaces are reserved for faculty and staff until 2pm.

Parking in any spaces other than those designated for students will result in a ticket and subsequent fine. Students who live in USC Aiken student housing will be issued a special parking permit which will allow them to park in the campus housing parking lots. Students with this special decal can also park in lots A through D, except from 8am to 2pm Monday through Friday. Students who do not live in campus housing and do not have a special marking decal ARE NOT permitted to park in the housing parking lots and may be subject to fines, booting of their vehicle and towing if they do so.

Parking and Traffic Regulations

A. Rules and regulations for parking and traffic control at the USC Aiken campus are indicated by printed guides, campus maps, signs and street curb markings.

1. Yellow curb indicates no parking. In addition, parking is prohibited at fireplugs, fire lanes, sidewalks, walkways, grass, lawns, intersections, driveways or alleyways unless indicated by signs. At no time should service drives and trash pickup areas be blocked.
2. Faculty/Staff parking spaces are indicated by yellow lines; student parking spaces are indicated by white lines.
3. The campus speed limit is 14 miles per hour unless otherwise posted. However, everyone is expected to operate vehicles in a safe manner commensurate with road and weather conditions.
4. In the event a vehicle becomes inoperable on campus, University Police should be notified immediately. Steps should be taken to move the vehicle from the street or other hazardous position to a parking space. If the vehicle is not moved within a reasonable amount of time, the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. Jumper cables are supplied by University Police 24 hours a day.
5. All parked vehicles should be locked and no valuables left in unoccupied vehicles at any time. Report thefts or damage to University Police (6111) for investigation or other action.

B. Booting, Towing and/or Impounding Vehicles According to State law, the

appropriate campus official responsible for law enforcement and public safety or designee shall have the power to have a vehicle impounded, towed and stored at the owner's expense and risk under the following conditions:

1. if the motor vehicle is parked in a fire lane;
2. if the motor vehicle is parked in a handicapped space without benefit of a handicapped permit or is parked in such a way as to block a curb cut for the handicapped;
3. if the motor vehicle is parked on a yellow curb or in such a way as to block a driveway, to block a service entrance or to create a hazard to safety;
4. if the motor vehicle is parked in a parking by- permit-only area without benefit of a permit; no parking after 12 midnight without permit - towing enforced in all lots; if three or more traffic violations in one academic year have been issued against said vehicle.

C. Violations, Penalties and Bonds

1. The driver and/or owner or person in whose name a vehicle is registered shall be responsible for all violations incurred by the vehicle. Penalties and/or bonds are payable in person or by mail at the Finance Office during regular working hours Monday through Friday. **DO NOT SEND CASH.**

Schedule of penalties: Fines

- Parking Improperly \$20
- Parking Permit Improperly displayed \$10
- Parking in No Parking Area \$50
- Parking in Service or Loading Zone \$25
- Blocking sidewalks and Driveways \$25
- Parking in Reserved Space \$25
- Parking in a no parking safety zone; or fire lane/blocking fire hydrant \$50
- Parking on Grass \$25
- Parking on sidewalk \$25
- Parked on Yellow Curb \$50
- Failure to register vehicle \$20
- Parking in Student Housing lot by a non-resident \$25
- Housing residents improperly parking in main lots 8 AM – 2 PM, Mon – Fri. \$25
- Parking in space for people with disabilities or blocking space or curb cut \$50
- Speeding on campus \$40
- Booting of a vehicle \$50
- First offense driving in an unsafe manner / obstructing campus operations \$25
- Second offense driving in an unsafe manner / obstructing campus operations \$50
- Failure to obey Police Officers' instructions \$50

Rules and regulations for parking and traffic at the USC Aiken campus are indicated by printed guides, campus maps, signs and street curb markings.

D. Appeals

Any person desiring to appeal any parking or traffic violation which he/she feels may have been given through error or without just cause may do so within 72 hours after the time of issuance (Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted); otherwise, the right to appeal is forfeited. Appeal forms are available at the University Police Office or online. Appeals are presented to the Citation Appeals Committee for review where a final determination is made.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING POLICIES

Students residing on campus and their guests are bound by USC Aiken policy, as well as University Housing policies and procedures as published in the “University Housing Community Guidebook.” Residents and non-residents will be subject to judicial action for violations of USC Aiken and/or University Housing policy. University Housing Missing Student Policy and Protocol.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (P.L. 110-315) requires the University to maintain a missing notification policy and protocol for on campus residents. A student shall be deemed missing when the student is absent from the University for more than 24 hours without any known reason. The information is posted on the University Housing website and provided at check-in. You should report missing students by filing a missing person report with the University Police by call 803-648-4011.

Residents 18 years and older:

You may identify a confidential contact to be notified not later than 24 hours after the time that you are determined to be missing. You may register your confidential contact on a form during your housing check-in process and can make changes to this form at your area office.

Residents younger than 18 years old:

The policy requires us to notify your custodial parent or guardian not later than 24 hours after the time that you are determined to be missing. You must provide parental emergency contact information on a form during your housing check-in process and can make changes to this form at your area office. Should a missing person report be filed on your behalf, University Police and Housing will:

- Gather information from the individual reporting the missing person and/ or witnesses/roommates, to include details about the reason for the report and any information that can be gathered on the missing student, such as; personal descriptors, clothing last worn, locations where student may be, persons or witnesses who may have information, vehicle descriptions, information of the physical and mental well-being of the student, up-to-date photographs, class schedule, etc.;
- Use of any or all of the following resources to assist in locating the student: go to the student’s on-campus room, talk to roommates, secure a photo of the student, call or text the student’s cell phone and call any other number

on record, send the student an email, check all possible campus locations the student may be, check the campus card access log for the student, review campus video from cameras, and check for the student's vehicle.

- Ensure that the University of South Carolina Aiken Police Department has filed a missing persons report no later than 24 hours after a student is determined missing.
- Notify your confidential emergency contact (custodial parent or guardian if you are less than 18 years old) within 24 hours after the student is determined missing:

Parking and Security Gate Access at University Housing

Parking at University Housing is restricted to students who have valid residential student's decal. Residents are required to park in between the white lines at University Housing. Yellow line spaces are reserved for faculty and staff. The security access gates to University Housing are restricted to residential students when closed. Card access gates by Pacer Crossings are closed 24/7 and the ones in front of Pacer Downs are closed daily from 9 pm to 7 am. Tailgating behind another vehicle through any of the card access gate will result in you receiving a driving in an unsafe manner traffic ticket.

Noise Levels and Quiet Hours

1. Since studying is an important aspect of life for the University student, it is expected that residents and their guests will respect the rights of others by maintaining a reasonable limit on noise at all times. The right to quiet always supersedes the right to make noise.
2. Courtesy Hours: At any time, a resident has the right to request that any other resident or group of residents cease any activity that is interfering with his/her ability to study, rest, or quietly enjoy the community.
3. Residents and their guests must take corrective action when requested to decrease the noise level or cease any other disruptive activity by a fellow resident, a member of the University Housing staff, a University Police Officer, or other appropriate University official. Recurring requests to abate noise will constitute cause for disciplinary action.
4. Quiet hours are established to ensure that residents are given the opportunity to study or sleep in a quiet atmosphere. Quiet hours are as follows:
Sunday – Thursday 10 p.m. - 8 a.m.
Friday – Saturday 12 a.m. - 10 a.m.
5. During exam periods, quiet hours are extended to 24 hours. During quiet hours, noise that can be heard in other rooms or outside of the apartment is considered to be too loud.
6. Residents of University Housing are responsible for enforcing quiet hours within the community.

Visitors and Overnight Guests

1. Visitors and guests are bound by the same regulations as residents. The resident is responsible for any damages incurred by her/his visitors or guests. Guests and visitors should be escorted by the host resident. "Guests" are nonresidents to the apartment who spend the night in University Housing "Visitors" are nonresidents to the apartment who are not spending the night.
2. Visitation hours are Sunday- Thursday 10 a.m.-12 a.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 a.m. No visitors or guests of the opposite sex are allowed in apartment/suite after visitation.
3. Residents may only have same sex overnight guests. Residents must request advanced approval for an overnight guest from their roommates. Overnight guests must also be registered with the hall staff. Failure to obtain guest approval may result in revocation of guest privileges.
4. Guests should be temporary and infrequent. Guest requests for more than occasional visits will be denied. Guests of residents will not be permitted to stay for more than two days without special permission from their roommates and University Housing.
5. All visitors and guests, including USC Aiken students who are non-residents, must park between two white lines in the USC Aiken Parking Lot D. Guests who will be on campus overnight may obtain a temporary parking pass from University Police. Host and guest must both be present when obtaining a temporary parking pass. Guest must have a valid driver license. Resident may not obtain a temporary parking pass for guest of the opposite sex.
6. Visitors may park in Lot D until midnight Sunday- Thursday or 1 am on Friday-Saturday without a guest pass.
7. All students, visitors and guests must carry some type of photo identification.

Additional Alcohol Policies for University Housing

- A. Underage residents and their guests (regardless of age) may not possess or consume alcohol.
- B. Individuals of legal drinking age may consume alcoholic beverages within the confines of their apartment or another resident's apartment that is of age. Underage residents whose roommate(s) are 21 years of age or over may be present when alcohol is possessed or being consumed in their apartment, but are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages. Alcohol is not allowed in apartments or suites where all residents are underage. (Note: It is the responsibility of the host resident to ensure all guests are at least 21 years old.)
- C. The possession or use of an empty or full keg or party ball of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited.
- D. The misuse of alcoholic beverages and/or inappropriate or illegal behavior will result in disciplinary and/or legal action.
- E. Abuse of alcohol by students, regardless of age, that results in the need for immediate medical attention is considered violation of USC Aiken University Housing's policy and will result in judicial follow up and/or a mandatory counseling referral.
- F. Chugging, drinking games, initiations, "funneling," or other potentially

dangerous drinking activities are prohibited.

G. The sale of alcohol is prohibited.

H. Neon signs or other signs for alcohol related products may not be hung in windows or anywhere outside of the apartment.

I. If an emergency occurs, please contact University Police at x6111 or 648-4011.

Community Responsibility

1. Each resident is responsible for cooperating with the other residents of their apartment in the care, maintenance, and usage of the common living areas. This includes, but is not limited to, the cleaning of the apartment unit, restricting the noise level, and not using other residents' possessions without prior permission.
2. Each resident is responsible for abiding by the rules and regulations set forth by the USC Aiken University Housing Office as long as those rules do not endanger the health, safety, or general welfare of the resident.

Occupancy

Life safety regulations require that gatherings must not exceed the total of 12 people in any apartment in Pacer Downs and Pacer Commons or 16 people in any suite in Pacer Crossings.

Harassment and Physical Abuse

1. Racial, sexual, or any other form of harassment of any person and/or group is prohibited and will subject the offender to appropriate disciplinary action.
2. Causing physical harm and/or the fear of physical harm to any person and/or group is prohibited and will result in disciplinary and/or legal action.
3. In accordance with the USC Aiken Code of Student Conduct, acts of sexual aggression will not be tolerated. Any sexual assault should be reported to a staff member or to USC Aiken University Police officer as soon as possible.

Public Passageways and Access Areas

1. Each resident is responsible for keeping the grounds outside of his/her apartment in a clean and sanitary condition. All rubbish, garbage, cigarette butts, and refuse must be deposited in the proper receptacles and dumpsters. Items left unattended in common areas may be disposed of by management.
2. If trash is left outside an apartment, each resident will be assessed a fine of \$50.00 after the first warning and an additional \$50.00 for each incident thereafter.
3. Smoking is not permitted in any housing apartment/suite, common areas, or within 25 feet of any housing buildings. Cigarette butts should be deposited in a proper receptacle, not on the grounds. Students needing such a receptacle should contact the University Housing. Failure to dispose of cigarettes properly will result in a clean-up charge as listed above. Residents will also be responsible for immediate cleanup of the area.
4. Persons responsible for damage to the public areas will be billed for repair

and replacement and may be referred for disciplinary or legal action. In the event that a responsible individual cannot be determined; all persons present at the time of the damage will be billed equally.

5. Public areas are for the use of the residents and their guests only.
6. No one may sleep overnight in the public areas.
7. Public passageways are for the entering and exiting of the premises and are not to be obstructed or used for any other purpose.
8. Students are prohibited from throwing objects or liquids from windows, doors, or patios of the buildings into public areas of the building or grounds.
9. Walking, scaling, and/or climbing on the exterior wall/ roof area is prohibited.
10. Entering or exiting through a window is prohibited.
11. For reasons of security, residents are advised not to leave their door unlocked at any time.
12. Suspicious persons should be reported to a Resident Assistant, the University Housing staff, and/or University Police.

PET POLICY

A. While pets and other animals may be a source of enjoyment and companionship to their owners, they can also pose health and safety problems and introduce potential liability to the University and its members. Therefore, pets are not permitted on the University of South Carolina Aiken campus including indoor/outdoor venues and student housing, except for animals that are specifically exempted under this policy. Any person found to have an unauthorized animal on campus will be asked to remove the animal promptly.

Exemptions

The animals listed below are permitted on campus. When required by governing ordinances, such animals must wear appropriate tags and be certified, licensed, and/or inoculated.

1. Service animals that are specially trained to aid persons with disabilities. Individuals who employ the service of such an animal shall register the animal with the Department of Disability Services.
2. On-duty police dogs.
3. Laboratory and demonstration animals (including reptiles, mammals, birds, and fish) used directly in support of the University's mission in teaching and/or research. Such animals are permitted only in those facilities and laboratories specifically designed to house that type of animal.

Other Exemptions

Additional exceptions may be granted on a limited basis if requested in writing and approved by the Chancellor or Executive Vice Chancellor.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to promote the health and well-being of USC Aiken

students, faculty, staff, and visitors by discouraging and restricting the use of tobacco products on the USC Aiken campus.

Smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are allowed only in designated smoking areas in USC Aiken Housing. These areas are the five locations at Pacer Downs (designated by a stand up ashtray next to a picnic table); under the two pergolas located behind Pacer Commons and an area on the east side of Pacer Crossings. Smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco is not permitted in any housing apartment/suite, and/or common areas. Violators of this policy are subject to a \$25.00 fine. Cigarette butts should be deposited in a proper receptacle, not on the grounds. Failure to dispose of cigarettes properly will result in a clean-up charge. Residents will also be responsible for immediate cleanup of the area.

Residents who do not abide by the no-smoking policy will be subject to judicial action and cleaning charges, as the residue and scent of smoke is extremely difficult to remove.

Policy Statement

In compliance with the [South Carolina Clean Indoor Air Act of 1990](#) and to protect the health and safety of USC Aiken students, faculty, staff and visitors, the possession of lighted smoking material in any form and the use of smokeless tobacco are allowed only in designated smoking areas of the campus. Other than in the designated areas, smoking and the use of tobacco products is prohibited in buildings, outdoor areas and in University-owned vehicles.

Designated smoking areas will be clearly marked with signage and canisters for the disposal of tobacco remains will be placed in these areas.

Advertising, sampling, selling, or promoting the use of tobacco products is prohibited on the USC Aiken campus or in any USC Aiken publication.

To promote a healthy environment, all members of the USC Aiken community are encouraged to serve as ambassadors of this policy. Faculty, staff and students may assist in the education and compliance effort by politely explaining the policy if a violation is observed. Resistance or unwillingness of an individual or group to comply with the policy should be reported to University Police. University Police Officers and designated staff have the right to cite the violator and impose a \$25 fine. Repeat violations may result in disciplinary actions or sanctions as provided for in employment policies or student conduct regulations.

A [map of the designated smoking areas](#) on campus is available online.